Camacho, MVA work to remove Micro Beach obstructions. PAGE 2
Senate confirms appointment of ex-governor Babauta, 3 others. PAGE 3

Hafa Adai!

$1

Saipan Tribune

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Volume XXXIII, Issue No. 157

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$115.4M budget for FY'24 pre-filed

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Yumul

Rep. Ralph N. Yumul (Ind-Saipan) pre-filed Monday a bill that proposes a $115.4-million budget for the CNMI government for fiscal year 2024, as Gov. Arnold I. Palacios had submitted.

Under Yumul's House Bill 23-66, or the Appropriations and Budget Authority Act of 2024, the governor

See BUDGET on Page 4

Trial of 18-year-old accused of rape starts

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The jury trial of an 18-year-old accused of raping a female relative in San Vicente begins, roughly four years after the alleged rape incident.

The jury trial for Kenneth Thomas Blas Kaipat, 18, entered Day 2 yesterday with the prosecution calling over eight witnesses to the stand, among them the responding police officers, the victim's father, cousins of the defendant, and San Vicente Parish

See TRIAL on Page 4

CPA deputy chief post kept vacant

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Ports Authority has decided to keep its deputy director position vacant following the resignation of previous director Edward Mendiola, keeping the position open but realigning the funds to other posts.

CPA, like many other government agencies, is facing budget constraints and has made necessary cuts and implement further measures in order to stay afloat. In line with this, CPA made the decision

See CPA on Page 4

MVA

MARINA RESTROOM REOPENS

The Department of Lands & Natural Resources reopened the public restroom facility at Smiling Cove Marina in Garapan, Saipan in July 2023 following renovations. The restroom is open from 7:30am to 4:30pm on weekdays and from 7am to 4pm on weekends and is maintained by the Division of Parks & Recreation. The renovation was supported by the Marianas Visitors Authority.

'TOUCHBACK' COUNTDOWN

Number of days left until the "touchback" rule takes effect on Sept. 30, 2023:

52

IN REVIEWING REQUEST FOR $20M LINE OF CREDIT

MPLT wants to know if NMI is in compliance with EDA grant terms

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

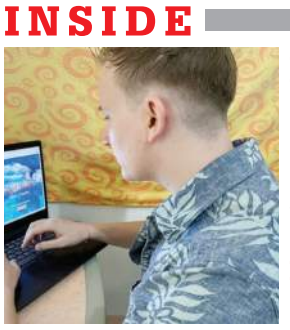
Before it can extend a $20-million line of credit to the CNMI government, the Marianas Public Land Trust wants to see first a letter from the U.S. Economic Development Administration certifying that the CNMI is currently in compliance with EDA grant terms.

This was among the list of requirements that MPLT is asking for in reviewing Gov. Arnold I. Palacios' request for MPLT to

See MPLT on Page 4

Mendiola-Long

INSIDE



BUSINESS
Carter Widmor's CarterJams670 is now the island's one-stop shop for web design.
PAGE 11

GOOD HOUSEKEEPING
With a little creativity, you can transform your space into such a haven without breaking the bank.
PAGE 14

LIFE & STYLE
Suga has become the third member of BTS to begin Korea's compulsory military service.
PAGE 15

SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

GOT A NEWS TIP? TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

Local

Camacho, MVA work to remove Micro Beach obstructions

Saipan Mayor Ramon Blas "RB" Camacho has coordinated with Marianas Variety Authority to remove obstructions such as dead trees and stumps from Micro Beach in an effort to minimize the safety risks they pose to people.

The removal operation began on Thursday, Aug. 3, with the Saipan Mayor's Office field operations personnel and heavy equipment being called into action. The dead trees and stumps were dislodged from the sand with the help of a backhoe, which transferred the debris to a waiting dump truck and claw truck. A Saipan Mayor's Office field crew member equipped with a chainsaw also joined in breaking down the larger dead trees.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A Saipan Mayor's Office field operations crew member equipped with a chainsaw also joined in breaking down the larger dead trees.

"The Marianas Visitors Authority is pleased to support Mayor Ramon B. Camacho and his team at the Saipan Mayor's Office in their efforts to beautify the island of Saipan. Micro Beach is one of the most famous beaches in the Marianas and features two of the most prominent resort hotels on island. The area is frequented by tourists and residents on a daily basis so cleaning up debris and waste should actually be a normal occurrence. We are grateful to our partners at the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality's Division of Coastal Resources Management, Department of Public Lands, Hyatt Regency Saipan, Crowne Plaza Saipan, Division of Fish and Wildlife, and our team at the Marianas Visitors Authority for their quick action and support in this endeavor," said MVA managing director Chris Concepcion.

Camacho earlier raised a concern about these obstructions at Micro Beach, with the remnants of coconut tree bases and other structures seen at the beachside and along parts of the shoreline. These obstructions protrude from the sand and the water and Camacho is worried this could pose a safety risk to beachgoers and swimmers. The mayor insisted this situation be rectified immediately.

Camacho said in a news release yesterday that he is very pleased that these obstructions, which have long been an eye sore on the beach and a hazard to public safety, are finally being dealt with.

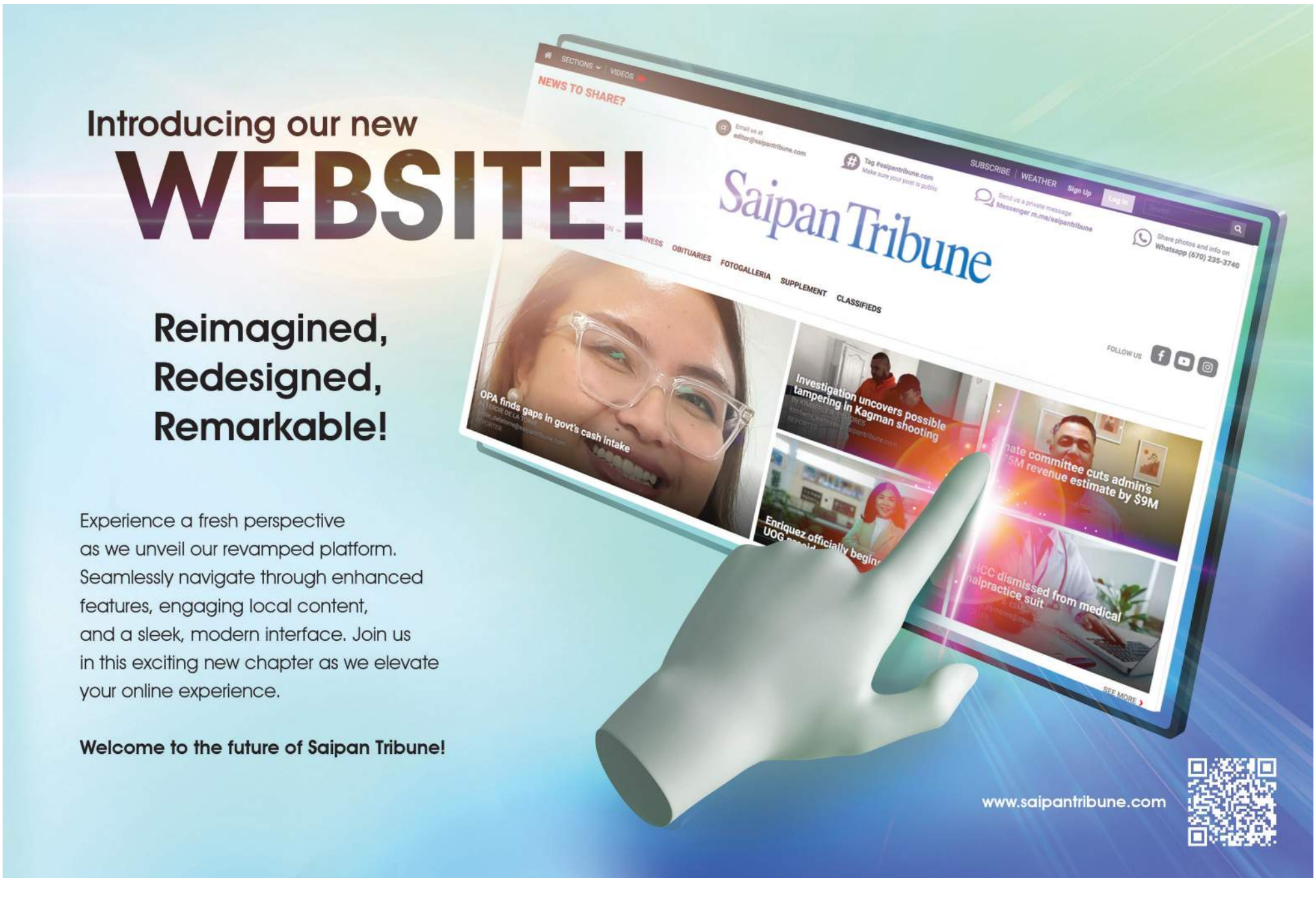
He reiterated that his three principles of "Safe Community, Safe Village, and a Clean Island" are the visions in which he is determined to make a reality for Saipan and he remains steadfast in accomplishing these goals. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Dead tree stumps are transferred to a waiting dump truck and claw truck for disposal.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The dead trees and stumps were dislodged from the Micro Beach sand with the help of a backhoe.



Senate confirms appointment of ex-governor Babauta, 3 others

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Senate confirmed Friday the appointment of former governor Juan N. Babauta to serve as a member of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s board of trustees, representing Saipan and Northern Islands.

Babauta

The Senate also confirmed during a regular session the appointment of Rebecca Agnes C. White to serve as a member of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. board of directors, Michele Olopai Joab to serve as a member of the Civil Service Commission board, and Mariah Barcinas to the CHCC board of trustees.

All five senators present at the session voted "yes" to the adoption of the Senate Executive Appointments and Government Investigations Committee's report that recommended the confirmation of Babauta's nomination.

Sens. Celina R. Babauta (D-Saipan), Corina L. Magofna (Ind-Saipan), Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian), and Francisco Q. Cruz (R-Tinian) were absent, but excused from the session.

Juan Babauta will serve the remaining of a six-year term that will expire on June 22, 2029.

At a recent confirmation hearing, Babauta said he would like to see a financially robust CHCC so that the hospital and the health centers on Tinian and Rota can deliver better health care services for the people of the CNMI.

Babauta used to serve as CHCC chief executive officer. He served as the sixth elected governor of the CNMI for one term, from 2002 to 2006.

As for White's nomination, all five senators present voted "yes" to the adoption of the EAGI Committee report.

White will serve a four-year term. She is the office manager for the law offices of her father, Michael A. White.

As for Joab's nomination to CSC, all five senators voted "yes" to the adoption of the committee's report. Joab will serve the remainder of a six-year term that will expire on Jan. 9, 2027. She will represent Saipan, the Northern Islands, and the Carolinian community.

Joab used to work for the CNMI's Department of Labor Workforce Investment Agency many years ago and her background is in human resources.

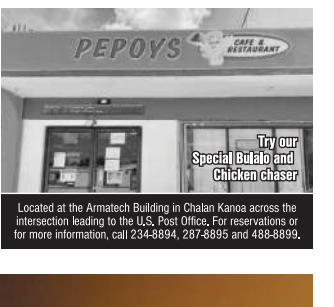
With respect to Barcinas' nomination to the CHCC board representing Rota, four senators voted "yes" to the adoption of the committee's report, while Sen. Paul Manglona abstained from voting.

Barcinas will serve the remaining of a six-year term that will expire on June 22, 2027. She works on Saipan at the Division of Youth Services.

Senate President Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero (D-Saipan) presided over the session.

RAIN OR SHINE CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Rotary Club of Saipan members and some Rotaract Club officers clean up the Kilili Beach on Aug. 5, 2023, Saturday. The group included Richard Baleares, Arriane Antonio, Brent Espineda, Mathew Manuel, Gio Sagana, Ben Agulto, Marie Javier, Charles Cepeda, Enoch Lim, Sonya Dancoe, Marvin Deleon Guerrero, Dr. Nelson Krum, Bonny Grow, Billy Grow, Curtis Dancoe, Hiroko Stewart, Mario Valentino, Irene Holl, Donna Krum, Wendell Posadas, Greg Borja, Glen Perez, and Joseph Torres.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Man in assault case released on unsecured bail

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A man who is accused of assaulting another man who allegedly insulted his fiancé has been released on an unsecured bail.

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph Camacho allowed Friday the release of Khandakar S. Rahman, who is accused of assaulting another man who allegedly insulted his fiancé, on an unsecured bail of $3,000.

Unsecured bail means a defendant is released without having to post a cash bail but the bail amount can be imposed if the defendant violates the terms of his release.

After the hearing, Camacho ordered Rahman to return to court on Aug. 11, for a preliminary hearing; he will be arraigned on Aug. 21.

Rahman, 22, is facing charges of disturbing the peace and assault and battery.

According to court documents, police received a call on Aug. 3 at around 1:13am, reporting an injured person at Afetna Supermarket.

At the scene, police observed two men siting down on opposite ends of the market's parking lot and another man lying on his back.

The victim, later identified as Nazrul Islam, was unconscious but was breathing. Medics arrived soon after and rushed the man to the Commonwealth Healthcare Center so he could be treated for his injuries.

According to police, Rahman admitted to punching Nazrul, causing him to fall to the ground and hit his head on the pavement.

Rahman told police that he punched the victim because he heard him talking to one of their companions about his fiancé.

He claims he was talking about her inappropriately and calling her names leading to an altercation between the two.

Public invited to CJMT sharing sessions

Community members are invited to informational sharing sessions where updates to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Joint Military Training Project will be provided.

Information sessions will occur on Tinian, Rota, and Saipan, and they are a continuation of outreach activities that have been held in prior months. These information sessions will start at 5pm at the following locations:

- **Tinian – Bar-K Diner**
  - ❏ Wednesday, Aug. 9, 2023
  - ❏ Thursday, Aug. 10, 2023
- **Rota - @Puesto Grill Annex (Next to Aquarius Bar and Grill)**
  - ❏ Monday, Aug. 14, 2023
- **Saipan – Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan, Hibiscus Hall**
  - ❏ Tuesday, Aug. 15, 2023
  - ❏ Wednesday, Aug. 16, 2023

Discussions will include the proposed "New Training Concept" of CJMT that is being developed in collaboration with CNMI partners. Additionally, increased public access, the removal of Pagan from planned activities, elimination of any hazards on high impact areas, on island staff who will provide increased coordination with local agencies, and other issues will also be presented and discussed. Refreshments will be served at each session.

The information sessions are coordinated by the U.S. Marine Corps, Tinian Municipality, and the Commonwealth Bureau of Military Affairs (Office of the Governor). ***(PR)***

Judiciary asks for protective order vs. rape suspect

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI Judiciary has asked the Superior Court to issue a protective order against a subpoena served by a man accused of rape that essentially demands the production of sensitive Judiciary records.

Last week, William Abraczinskas, Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo's law clerk who is facing rape allegations, issued a subpoena against the CNMI Judiciary's Human Resource office, seeking the production of material related to his own sexual assault complaints.

Hyun Jae Lee, on behalf of the CNMI Judiciary, recently filed a motion asking to quash the subpoena and requests for a protective order preventing the disclosure of these Judiciary records.

In her motion, Lee said the Judiciary has standing to challenge the subpoena because the documents, objects, and information sought by the defendant are government property, some of which may be privileged or protected from discovery, including confidential records pertaining to personnel, information protected by attorney-client privilege, personally identifiable information, and information related to court administration.

Lee also argues that the subpoena is procedurally defective, and that it should be quashed because the Judiciary was not given reasonable time to comply.

The Judiciary's Human Resource office was first served with a subpoena on Aug. 2, and with an amended subpoena on Aug. 3 directing that the document be produced by Aug. 4.

"Such short notice and deadline present an unreasonable and unfeasible time for compliance. Because the timeline to comply is unreasonable and oppressive, the subpoena must be quashed," Lee said.

Citing previous rulings, she said, "The materials requested in the subpoena are not specific and irrelevant to the moving party's criminal case. Also, the materials are not admissible."

"The subpoena application was intended as a general fishing expedition. If the court is not inclined to grant the request, the Judiciary moves this court to modify the subpoena so that privileged, protected, and irrelevant information and materials are not subject to the subpoena," Lee said.

Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho set a hearing on the Judiciary's motion to quash the subpoena for Aug. 25, 2023.

Abraczinskas, through Chief Public Defender Douglas Hartig, has subpoenaed the Superior Court's Human Resource Office for documentation, reports and interviews related to his claims of sexual assault and the allegation that he sexually assaulted a co-worker.

He has also sought a stay on court proceedings pending a Supreme Court ruling on his petition to disqualify all sitting Superior court judges from hearing his case.

MPLT

From page 1

consider extending a $20-million line of credit for several federally funded capital improvement or infrastructure projects in order to get these projects going.

MPLT board of trustees chair Phillip Mendiola-Long stated in a letter to Palacios last week that they want to see a working plan proposal that will help them understand the request for line of credit, specifically the timeline of the proposed projects.

Last July 17, Palacios asked MPLT for a $20 million revolving line of credit for reimbursable federally funded grants for Capital Improvement Projects administered by the EDA.

Mendiola-Long said that, under the working plan proposals, they want an EDA letter confirming that the proposed line of credit does not violate the terms of the grant agreement.

He said the letter should also state whether or not reimbursements for these grants can be assigned and paid directly to MPLT as settlement for the line of credit extended to the CNMI government.

The chairman said they also need other details such as current outstanding/ongoing projects and their progress; priority project listing and cost estimates; the status of the procurement process for each project; funds drawdown timeline; and if there are any of the interest costs on the line of credit eligible for grant reimbursement.

Mendiola-Long also asked for details of the architectural and engineering designs that have been performed to date and if none, when will they be completed and who is performing the project. He also asked for details of the cost budget and estimated completion timeline.

Mendiola-Long said the requested information is a requirement as part of their due diligence process and in supporting the trustees in deciding on the proposed investment, particularly in planning or scheduling of anticipated funds drawdown requests.

Palacios had also asked MPLT to consider lowering the interest rate on the government's existing loan with MPLT that was used to fund various typhoon-related expenditures.

Palacios said these lines of credit and lowering the interest rate proposals will provide "safe, local investment opportunities that not only help current beneficiaries of the trust fund but future generations as well."

He said the $20-million line of credit could be a type of bridge financing or advances to cover the costs of the initial stages of construction of these capital infrastructure projects.

Finance Secretary Tracy B. Norita had earlier disclosed that some $289 million worth of CIP funds are in the pipeline.

BUDGET

From page 1

shall have up to 50% reprogramming authority for the departments, agencies, and offices of the Executive Branch.

That reprogramming authority, however, shall not extend to the funds appropriated to the Legislature or Judiciary as well as funds appropriated by the legislative delegations.

In response to *Saipan Tribune*'s inquiry yesterday, Yumul, who chairs the House of Representatives Ways and Means Committee, said the main points are that they took out $2,426,394 from vacant positions and distributed $731,392 to the Health Network Program (formerly the CNMI Medical Referral Program), an additional $1 million to the Northern Marianas College, and $695,002 to fund some staff of the Mayor of Tinian.

"We understand many departments and agencies asked for additional funding. But we feel this was our priorities as far as distribution of little funds we had," Yumul said.

He said the full House will act on his budget bill during a regular session tomorrow, Thursday.

The Senate's Fiscal Affairs Committee has yet to finalize its version of the budget.

Yumul said a standalone bill that is projected to generate revenues will be introduced after the budget.

Pursuant to a House concurrent resolution, the total identified gross budgetary resources for fiscal year 2024 is $172.56 million. After adjustment—deducting debt service obligations, earmarked funds, and other obligations such as the annual payments due the Settlement Fund in the amount of $34 million—a total of $115.4 million is available for appropriation.

Including Department of Public Lands' appropriated $4.96 million, the grand total is $120.36 million.

Under the legislation, all fees assessed and collected that directly relate to marriage licenses are increased by 100%.

The leadership account of each house in the Legislature shall be $100,000.

The Judiciary is appropriated $6.4 million; the Legislature, $6.9 million; the Office of the Governor, $801,690; Office of the Lt. Gov. $561,449; and other offices of the governor and lieutenant governor, $11.4 million.

The appropriations are the following:

- Department of Commerce, $1.5 million;
- Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, $1.8 million;
- Department of Corrections, $4.4 million;
- Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services, $5.0 million;
- Department of Finance, $7.5 million;
- Department of Labor, $865,485;
- Department of Lands and Natural Resources, $2.1 million;
- Department of Public Safety, $6.6 million;
- Department of Public Works, $2.8 million;
- Rota, $7.7 million;
- Tinian, $4.7 million;
- Saipan and Northern Islands, $1.3 million;
- Boards and commissions, $1.6 million;
- Independent programs, $7 million;
- Other programs (transfers to agencies), $33.7 million

CPA

From page 1

to leave its deputy director position open, but realign the funds used for the position to fund other critical positions within CPA.

According to CPA board chair Kimberlyn King-Hinds, the initial plan was to completely terminate the position after Mendiola resigned, but the board opted to make that decision at a later time.

Instead, the board came to the agreement that the position would remain on its organizational chart but it would be zeroed out and the funds that were initially allocated for that position would be redistributed to other positions.

Mendiola, who has been with CPA for 28 years, resigned last month. His resignation took effect on June 30, 2023, according to CPA executive director Christopher Tenorio.

Mendiola has served CPA for close to three decades. Prior to becoming deputy director, Medniola was the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport manager.

In a statement from King-Hinds, she said Mendiola was instrumental in the undertakings that CPA has committed to in terms of improving its facilities, among other things.

"He will be missed, and I wish him very well. He always has a home in CPA. He feels like he needs to take a break at this point, but I hope that sometime in the future he would consider coming back and being part of the family. But he is always part of the family," she said.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

PSS EIP ICC meeting set

The CNMI Public School System's Early Intervention Program's Interagency Coordinating Council will have a meeting on Thursday, Aug. 17, from 9am to 11am via Zoom. Contact 664-4841 for the meeting link if one has not been emailed to you. ***(PR)***

Register now for the ICC

The Division of Coastal and Resources Management is now accepting registrations for the 2023 International Coastal Cleanup, which will take place this year on Saturday, Sept. 16, 2023!

Form your crew, register at https://forms.gle/zQGT-2BQKksF7evPg6 and participate in the cleanup.

Cleanup supplies, trash hauling, and disposal will be provided by the Bureau of Coastal and Environmental Quality. **(PR)**

GCC board meeting on Thursday

The Guam Community College board of trustees will hold its monthly board meeting on Thursday, Aug. 10, 2023, at noon at Guam Community College in Room 112, Learning Resource Center (GCC Library), Building 4000. All attendees are encouraged to wear a mask on the GCC campus.

Individuals requiring special accommodations, auxiliary aids, or services should contact (671)735-5641 Ext. 5594/5597. ***(PR)***

TRIAL

From page 1

"confirmation" teachers who allegedly witnessed the injuries both the defendant and the victim sustained following the June 2019 assault.

According to the lead prosecutor in this case, assistant attorney general Steve Kessel, the trial is expected to last the whole week and possibly into early next week as there still remains a long list of witnesses who will take the stand.

Kessel said the first two days of testimonies came from relatives of both the defendant and the victim, responding police officers, and nearby witnesses. From today until next week, the prosecution expects to call on expert witnesses to give their testimonies on the evidence found at the scene.

Kaipat is currently facing three counts of sexual assault in the first degree, two counts of sexual assault in the second degree, aggravated assault and battery, assault with a dangerous weapon, strangulation, and burglary.

According to the information against Kaipat, police officers were dispatched to a home in San Vicente on June 2, 2019. Upon arriving, officers saw a female individual walking from the house with her face covered in blood that ran down to her chest while both her eyes were heavily bruised and swollen.

The victim told police that she was taking an afternoon nap when she heard a male voice call her nickname, which only close family members knew.

She said she got up and looked around the house but did not see anyone.

After going back to sleep, she was violently woken up as she was being strangled from behind. She said she struggled with the person and used her hands and fingernails to try and scratch anything she could on the suspect's body and face. She said she fell to the floor with the person and she could not breathe as she was still being choked.

She said she could not identify the perpetrator as his face was covered with clothing, but noticed the attacker's complexion was brown. At that point she told police that she thought she was going to die and pretended to go unconscious.

She said she heard the suspect rip off her underwear and that she felt that she was being choked again when she blacked out. She said when she woke up, she was on a bed in "short pants."

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

DLNR, MVA reopen Smiling Cove Marina restrooms

Patrons of Smiling Cove Marina and Outer Cove Marina on Saipan are enjoying a bit of relief with the recent reopening of the public restrooms facilities by the Department of Lands & Natural Resources, with support from the Marianas Visitors Authority.

Renovations were completed earlier this month, and the restrooms—located near the boat ramp—are now open from 7:30am to 4:3pm on weekdays and from 7am to 4pm on weekends.

"After 24 years the Smiling Cove Marina restrooms have been reopened," said Floyd Masga, special advisor to the DLNR secretary. "This would have not been possible without the collaboration among the DLNR secretary's Office, the DLNR Division of Parks & Recreations, and the Marianas Visitors Authority. Overall, collaboration among agencies can lead to a more holistic and impactful facility that addresses various needs and makes a positive difference in the community it serves."

The renovation includes new toilets, lavatories, plumbing; painting; and other improvements.

"Public restrooms are one of the most-needed community improvements right now, and we congratulate DLNR on this renovation and reopening," said MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion. "The MVA was pleased to provide this seed funding to give them a jumpstart, and we encourage everyone to help keep this and DLNR's other public restrooms clean and in good working order for everyone's convenience."

The facility is maintained by DLNR Division of Parks & Recreation. ***(MVA)***

CNMI employers are invited to use NMC employee/intern online recruiting app

Businesses and organizations in the community who are looking to expand their workforce with qualified students and graduates are invited to join the Northern Marianas College's newest recruiting platform, Handshake.

Handshake is a network that brings together students, colleges, and employers all on a single platform. With multiple schools on the network, Handshake has become a major channel for employers to recruit students. 100% of the Fortune 500 companies plus thousands of small and local businesses recruit on Handshake.

Through Handshake, employers can post job vacancy announcements, connect directly with NMC graduates who are seeking employment, and schedule and conduct interviews with potential candidates.

"As we launch this dynamic web-based platform, we're excited to connect driven college graduates with prospective employers," NMC career manager Neda Deleon Guerrero said. "We ask the local business community to try it out and see how Handshake can benefit them."

Employers who would like to access the capabilities of Handshake are asked to visit www.joinhandshake.com. For more information or for any questions, contact Deleon Guerrero at neda.dlguerrero@marianas.edu. ***(NMC)***

NMC

NMC career manager Neda Deleon Guerrero presented to the Saipan Chamber Commerce last Wednesday and discussed the college's newest online recruiting platform, Handshake.

COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-23-022, Rev.1

SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF FIVE (5) LIGHT-DUTY VEHICLES

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids to supply and deliver five (5) light-duty vehicles to Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, to assist with the project management and inspections for the CUC Water and Wastewater systems upgrades and improvements.

This project is funded by a United States of Environment Protection Agency (USEPA) grant.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of **$200.00** (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked ***"CUC-IFB-23-022, Rev. 1 Supply and Delivery of Five (5) Light-Duty Vehicles"*** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on August 22, 2023** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before the submission deadline. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification should be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid or supply under the contract. The IFB does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the bid under this request, or to procure or contract for goods. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing n**o later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on August 10, 2023,** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email manny.sablan@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan at christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in the said bids, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids submitted shall become the property of CUC.

BETTINA G. TERLAJE
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950 | Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
Website: www.cnmiports.com

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA) is inviting qualified contractors to submit bid proposals and their qualifications for the Thomas Camacho Mendiola Commercial Seaport Commercial Marina Perimeter Fencing, Project No. CPA-RS-001-23, for the island of Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Bidders are to submit one original and two copies of their bid which shall be sealed in an envelope and marked on the cover package outside as follows: *"THOMAS CAMACHO MENDIOLA COMMERCIAL SEAPORT COMMERCIAL MARINA PERIMETER FENCING, CPA-SS-001-23"* and submitted no later than **2:00 P.M. (CHST), FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 08, 2023**, to the Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor of the Arrival Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, at which time and place the sealed proposals will be publicly opened and read. Bidders are requested to minimize their company's attendees to ensure social distancing.

The Project, in general, consists of the Marina Perimeter Fencing including all associated work, all in accordance with the Plans and Specifications.

The Project is being financed by the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The contract award, if it is to be made, will be made within ninety (90) calendar days from the receipt of bids. CPA reserves the right to hold such bids in effect for one hundred eighty (180) calendar days from the date of bid opening.

A DVD containing the Contract Documents including plans, specifications and the bid schedule, may be obtained at the CPA Accounting Office, 2nd floor of the Departure Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, upon the payment of **ONE HUNDRED U.S. DOLLARS ($100.00)** for each set of plans and documents in electronic form (DVD). The payment is nonrefundable unless this notice to bidders is cancelled. Payment shall be made in cash, credit card, cashier's check or U.S. postal money order, made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority. Bidders should notify CPA's point of contact mentioned below immediately if there are issues retrieving the files on the DVD and are to verify all information using the specification table of contents and the index of drawings.

A pre-bid conference will be held at Ports Manager's Confernce Room, located at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport on the island of Rota in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), at **10:00 A.M. (CHST), FRIDAY, AUGUST 25, 2023,** to explain and clarify any questions regarding this project. **Attendance is Mandatory.** A site visit will follow the pre-bid conference.

Questions should be submitted in writing to the CPA Executive Director's Office, 2nd floor of the Arrival Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport or emailed to Mr Alex C. Tudela, Procurement Officer at atudela@cnmiports.com with copy to Fermin R. Flores at ferminf@cnmiports.com at least ten (10) days prior to the bid opening date; with the exception of extension requests which have no deadline. Responses to all questions and requests for information will be provided to all bidders who purchased a DVD and attended the pre-bid conference.

Bidders shall use the bid schedule form furnished by the Commonwealth Ports Authority on the DVD. Each bidder must also supply all supplemental information required in the specifications.

The contract period for construction of the project in its entirety shall be **One Hundred Eighty (180) calendar days.** Liquidated damages in the amount of **ONE HUNDRED U.S. DOLLARS PER CALENDAR DAY ($100.00)** shall be assessed the Contractor for each calendar day that the completion of the Project is delayed beyond the contract completion date without approved excuse.

The apparent low bidder will be subject to a thorough and comprehensive review of its qualifications and Bid Documents to ensure that they are "responsive and responsible." This review will include, but is not necessarily limited to previous project experience, financial capabilities, quality of equipment and personnel, and bonding and insurance. If the apparent low bidder is found not to be "responsive or responsible", their bid will be rejected and the next lowest bidder will be evaluated for qualifications.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Notice to Bidders; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; (c) any calculation error made in the bid schedule or mis-enter of the quantity of line item; or (d) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

Each bid shall be accompanied by either a bid bond by a U.S. Treasury listed or CPA approved surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount not less than ten percent (10%) of the bid price. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

All mechanics and laborers for this procurement project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate established by the CNMI or the U.S. Secretary of Labor, whichever is higher. A copy of the Department of the Federal Labor Wage Rate Determination is included in Section GP 70-26 of the specifications. The bidder shall take into account minimum wage increases that may be imposed in the CNMI over the life of the Contract and include associated costs in the bid proposal. The EEO requirements, labor provisions, and wage rates are included in the specifications.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority, in accordance with the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (78 Stat. 252, 42 USC §§ 2000d to 2000d-4) and the Regulations, hereby notifies all bidders or offerors that it will affirmatively ensure that any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, disadvantaged business enterprises will be afforded full and fair opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award.

By submitting a bid/proposal under this solicitation, the bidder or offeror certifies that neither it nor its principals are presently debarred or suspended by any Federal department or agency from participation in this transaction.

In addition to the above, all bidders shall comply with all local and Federal requirements under this procurement.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY:

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date:

CNMI SBDC offers HR refresher course for professionals

More than 30 human resource professionals expanded their human resource management knowledge during last Thursday's human resource basics training conducted by the CNMI Small Business Development Center at the Northern Marianas College.

The training, which was done in partnership with the Society of Human Resource Management and the Pacific State Council, consisted of employer guidance on how to manage the different aspects of human resources. It covered a wide range of human resources-related topics, from employment issues to workplace regulations and tools and resources for small businesses to deal with human resources in a more manageable manner by reducing the risk of violation. Other compliance topics included recruitment and hiring, employee classifications, timekeeping, record keeping, payment of wages, disciplinary actions, and terminations.

Charlotte Huntsman, senior vice president of Human Resources and Organizational Development with the Guam Regional Medical City and director for the Pacific State Council, and Michael Pangelinan, attorney and partner with Calvo, Fisher & Jacob's Guam office, conducted the training.

"Conducting these training sessions is a pleasure to do and an obligation as a human resources professional," Huntsman said. "We want small businesses to start their business right and understanding the law and people is what it takes to do this."

Pangelinan echoed the same sentiments, and said it's an honor to support the CNMI business community. "Our connection to our sister islands of the CNMI is very special to us," Pangelinan said. "When the CNMI succeeds, Guam succeeds. We look forward to welcoming NMI SHRM and CNMI SBDC to Guam and to many more future opportunities to collaborate."

CNMI SBDC director Nadine Deleon Guerrero is grateful for the collaboration between the SBDC and CNMI SHRM and the Pacific State Council.

"As the CNMI SBDC, we're thrilled to have provided an enriching opportunity for over 30 human resource professionals to refine their skills through our recent human resource basics training," Deleon Guerrero said. "We remain dedicated to fostering professional growth and bolstering HR proficiency within our community."

NMC

Charlotte Huntsman, right, standing, senior vice president of Human Resources and Organizational Development with the Guam Regional Medical City and director for the Pacific State Council, was one of the presenters at the training conducted by the CNMI Small Business Development Center at the Northern Marianas College.

Austin Kyle Hocog, the owner and founder of Next Level Thrift & Consignment Shop, said that he deepened his understanding of human resource management through the training seminar.

"As a small business owner, I recognize that many individuals tend to avoid the administrative responsibilities that come with running a business," Hocog said. "Handling personnel matters was noted as one of the most challenging aspects of human resources. The presentation was valuable to me due to the insights it provided on employee-related regulations that were previously unfamiliar to me. Whether one is an employer or an employee, it is crucial to be aware of the legal safeguards that exist to protect both parties within an organization."

This training kicks off the first of many partnered events with CNMI SBDCN and SHRM CNMI Chapter as both parties have entered into a memorandum of understanding that supports both entities in their missions and goals for the year 2023.

For more information, call (670) 237-6888 or visit www.marianas.edu. ***(NMC)***

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
OFFICIAL SEAL

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE

DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.:
ITB23-OGM/RT-42300090

SUBMISSION DATE: SEPTEMBER 12, 2023
TIME: 9:00 A.M.

"PONA POINT PARK CONSTRUCTION PROJECT, ROTA"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED ON THE MUNIS VENDOR SELF SERVICE PORTAL (https://selfservice.dof.gov.mp/vss/) OR AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT BLDG NO. 12552, ANATAHAN DRIVE, CAPTIOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS ITB CAN BE MADE TO THE OFFICE OF GRANTS MANAGEMENT & STATE CLEARINGHOUSE BY AUGUST 30, 2023 TO MR. EPIPHANIO E. CABRERA, JR. VIA EMAIL AT epi.cabrera@gov.mp

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ EPIPHANIO E. CABRERA, JR.
ADMINISTRATOR, OGM

/S/ GERALDINE T. CRUZ
ACTING DIRECTOR, PS

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT # 05-2023

Opening date: August 09, 2023 **Closing date: September 11, 2023**

Location: SAIPAN **SALARY: UNCLASSIFIED**

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

NATURE OF WORK

The Executive Director is the CPA chief executive officer, serving at the pleasure of the CPA Board of Directors and responsible for implementing the policies and decisions of the CPA Board of Directors. Statutory powers and duties of the Executive Director are listed in the Commonwealth Code at 2 CMC §2127.

Under the general direction of the CPA Board of Directors, the Executive Director is responsible for the planning, supervision, and coordination of the management, operation, and maintenance of all CNMI airports and seaports, as stated in the CPA statue and regulations. The Executive Director is in charge and control of the operation and maintenance of all CPA ports. The Executive Director is also in full charge and control of construction of all CPA ports, facilities, and other necessary or incidental works controlled by or required to be constructed or repaired by CPA. The Executive Director exercises independent judgment in finding solutions to situations or problems in which no clear precedents exist.

The Executive Director is to devote full time to the business of CPA. The Executive Director shall be on call at all times after normal working hours and on weekends and holidays. The Executive Director shall also make recommendations to the CPA Board of Directors on matters impacting airport and seaport management, maintenance, and operation, represent CPA at meetings and conferences and before community groups, service organizations, civic committees, and technical industry organizations with respect to airport and seaport matters, and perform related duties as required.

Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official sealed transcripts, original copy of recent police record not more than six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 25 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. All applications and required documents must be submitted to the ***CPA Administration Office, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport or CPA Administration Office, Tinian International Airport, or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport.*** Failure to provide any of the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. Certain vacancies may require written and/or physical test. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening, 10-year Criminal History Record Check and 49 CFR Part 1542.209(d) Requirements. CPA reserves the right to waive or implement other qualifications to meet its needs. The deadline for submission of applications and required documents to the CPA Administration Office (Saipan) or at the Tinian International Airport or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport is no later than **5:00 P.M. on Monday, September 11, 2023.**

Detailed information on qualifications and position descriptions for the above positions may be picked up along with the application form from Monday-Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., except on holidays, at the CPA Administration Office (2nd Floor) of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Arrival Terminal or CPA Admin, Office at the Tinian International Airport or at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport. For additional information, please contact the CPA Human Resources Office by email at lorna.robert@cnmiports.com and hrspecialist@cnmiports.com or by phone at (670)237-6500.

CPA is an Equal Opportunity Employer and CPA hires those who are legally entitled to employment in the CNMI.

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

AUGUST IS CHILD SUPPORT AWARENESS MONTH

OAG's CSEU works to collect child support payments

The Child Support Enforcement Unit of the Office of the Attorney General joins in celebrating the national campaign of Child Support Awareness Month. This campaign aims to spread awareness that there are children in our community that need financial support and services. As we all know, every child needs the financial and emotional support of both parents. The Office of the Attorney General's Child Support Enforcement Unit works diligently to obtain the financial support necessary to raise, support, and improve each child's overall well-being.

The Child Support Enforcement Unit of the Office of the Attorney General is charged with enforcing the Uniform Interstate Family Support Act, which was passed into law in October 2017. The CSEU plays a vital role in the collection and distribution of child support to children and families. In 2022, the CSEU collected and distributed $341,091.27 from non-custodial parents. Additionally, the OAG collected and distributed $8,651.63 from tax rebate/refunds and another $14,571.16 from Labor (FPUC/PUA). The total amount of child support collected and distributed in 2022 was $363,314.06. In June 2018, a law was passed, creating the State Directory of New Hires, which mandated all employers to report all current employees, new hires, resignations within their business, and other information on their employees. The establishment of the State Directory of New Hires allows the OAG to locate custodial and non-custodial parents and enhances our child support enforcement capability.

Currently, the OAG's Child Support Enforcement Unit handles interstate child support cases. An interstate child support case is between two parents who live in different states. For example, one parent resides in the CNMI and the other parent resides in Guam or somewhere in the United States. The Child Support Enforcement Unit currently handles 333 active interstate child support cases.

"It is important that we raise awareness and remind our community that children need our support to live a decent life and to be successful. Our office will continue to exert all efforts in assuring that each child receives the financial resources necessary to live like everyone else. Our government cannot do it alone. It takes our whole community, from noncustodial parents, neighbors, friends and employers to help a child without one parent succeed," said Attorney General Edward Manibusan.

The Office of the Attorney General encourages the community to take an active role in helping all children to live a happy life. For more information regarding the Child Support services of the OAG, contact 670-237-7500 or you can visit our website www.cnmioag.org ***(OAG)***

BINGO BONANZA CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CNMI Women's Association board member Linda Cabrera receives a $500 donation from Bart Jackson, general manager of Bridge Capital, which has agreed to be a silver sponsor of the CWA Bingo Bonanza on Aug. 11, 2023, Friday, on the second floor of the Saipan Vegas compound in Gualo Rai.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

TSL Foundation signs on as a gold sponsor of the CWA Bingo Bonanza on Aug. 11, 2023, Friday. Photo shows, from left, TanHolding Corp. executive Catherine Attao, CNMI Women's Association board member Linda Cabrera, TSL Foundation executive director Merlie Tolentino, CWA board member Annamae Adaza, and TSL Foundation administrative assistant Rina Robles.

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION (NMHC)
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PUBLIC NOTICE

07/11/2023

Notice for Public Comment

Reprogramming of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Funds

Program Year/ IDIS No.:	Program	Activity Name:	Subrecipient:	Approved Budget:	Proposed Reprogramming Amount:	Proposed Revised Project Budget:	Current IDIS Funded Amount:
IDIS# 737	CDBG	PY2020 CDBG Planning and Administrative Costs		$192,240.00	($30,000.00)	$162,240.00	$192,240.00
		Total Reprogrammed from Activities:			**($30,000.00)**		
IDIS# 762		Purchase of (2) Rescue Watercraft Vehicles and (2) All-Terrain Vehicles for the CNMI DFEMS	Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services (DFEMS)	$106,000.00	$30,000.00	$136,000.00	$106,000.00
		Total Reprogrammed from Activities:			**($30,000.00)**		

Our agency through its Citizen Participation Plan (CPP) publishes a "Public Notice" on reprogramming funds from Planning and Administrative Cost to a project activity, which constitutes as a substantial amendment. Therefore, any comments from the general public should be submitted to NMHC Central Office located in Garapan, Saipan, and to the Rota and Tinian Field Offices, on or before August 11, 2023, no later than 4:30 P.M. You may contact Ms. Zenie P. Mafnas, Deputy Corporate Director or Ms. Tricia Tenorio, Planner @ (670)234-6866/9447.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Available for Public Review & Comment
PY2023 Annual Action Plan
July 11, 2023

The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) announces the availability for public review and comment, the Program Year 2023 Annual Action Plan (AAP).

The AAP is mandated by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Office of Community Planning and Development, for the use of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME), and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funds received by NMHC. NMHC is the Grantee of these HUD funds. NMHC administers CDBG, HOME, and ESG programs on behalf of the CNMI.

The PY2023 AAP identifies NMHC's proposed use of HUD PY2023 CDBG, HOME, and ESG funds totaling $1,550,603.00. A detailed list of the proposed projects and activities are shown below.

Community Development Block Grant		Project Sponsor	Project Type	Project Type
1	Childcare Facility (Rota)	Department of Community and Cultural Affairs (DCCA)	Public Facility	$ 450,000.00
2	Multi-Purpose Stage Facility (Rota)	Office of the Mayor of Rota	Public Facility	$230,000.00
4	Community Pavilion Shelters (Rota)	Office of the Mayor of Rota	Public Facility	$104,100.00
5	Planning and Administrative Costs	Northern Marianas Housing Corporation	Planning and Administrative Costs	$196,025.00
	Total			**$980,125.00**
Emergency Solutions Grant		**Project Sponsor**	**Project Type**	**Project Type**
7	Homeless Prevention and Rapid Rehousing Assistance/ Housing Relocation and Stabilization Services	NMHC	Homeless Prevention/ Rapid Rehousing	$ 68,119.25
8	ESG Administrative Cost	NMHC	Program Administration	$ 6,090.75
9	Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)	NMHC	HMIS	$ 7,000.00
	Total			**$ 81,210.00**
HOME Investment Partnership Grant		**Project Sponsor**	**Project Type**	**Project Type**
10	HOME Rehabilitation/ Homebuyer New Construction Program	NMHC	Affordable Housing	$ 415,877.80
11	HOME Administration	NMHC	Program Administration	$ 73,390.20
	Total			**$ 489,268.00**

The AAP will be available electronically on NMHC's website at www.nmhcgov.net. If you would like to obtain a copy or require additional information please contact Zenie P. Mafnas, Deputy Corporate Director at 234-6866 or by email at deputydirector@nmhcgov.net.

NMHC is inviting the public to comment on the proposed AAP. A public hearing will be held on Thursday, July 27, 2023 at 5:00 pm at the NMHC Main Office Conference Room, Garapan; Tinian Field Office, San Jose Tinian-NMC Bldg. A; Rota Field Office, Sinapalo III

Any person(s), agency, or organization wishing to comment on the AAP are encouraged to do so by submitting written comments to the NMHC main office at Garapan, Saipan, and/or to the Rota and Tinian Field Offices, no later than 4:30 pm Friday, August 11, 2023. Written comments may also be submitted via facsimile at (670)234-9021 or by submitting via email to deputydirector@nmhcgov.net. Comments must be received no later than 4:30 pm Friday, August 11, 2023. Should you require special accommodations, please contact Ms. Mafnas, at the NMHC main office, at 670-234-6866.

Jesse S. Palacios
Corporate Director
This ad is paid for by NMHC with HUD CPD funds

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

Anchorage needs to take care of its unsheltered residents, not exile them

With cold weather coming soon to Alaska and few beds available in homeless shelters, Anchorage Mayor Dave Bronson announced an affordable idea for dealing with his city's homeless population—offer them plane tickets to somewhere else. Preferably warmer. Like Los Angeles.

"If someone says 'I want to go to Los Angeles or San Diego or Seattle or Kansas,' it's not our business," he said at a news conference last week. "My job is to make sure they don't die on Anchorage streets."

Actually, Mr. Mayor, your job is to make sure Alaskans who are homeless in Anchorage get housed in Anchorage and not dispatched elsewhere without lodging or money, and left to fend for themselves.

Even Bronson seemed to realize how bad this plan sounds, telling reporters, "I'm left with these far-less-than-optimal options" because he has lost access this year to a sports arena that last winter sheltered as many as 500 people in the course of each day. And all his attempts to finance a large shelter in recent years have been rebuffed by state officials, he added.

"I have a moral imperative here and that is to save lives, and if that means giving them a few hundred dollars for an airline ticket to go where they want to go, I'm going to do that."

This is ridiculous. The moral imperative is for the mayor to do everything in his power to shelter or house the residents of his city who have wound up homeless. Anchorage, too, lacks affordable housing. City and state officials need to work on a solution that doesn't involve relocating people to far-flung states. But Bronson makes it sound like he's just tired of homeless people on his streets when he says he also has to take care of the taxpayer who "doesn't want to see what I see every day on the street—homeless people who appear to be visibly homeless, misbehaving."

Last year, the Salvation Army did offer plane tickets out of Anchorage to homeless people who they could confirm had family or friends to stay with elsewhere. But this time, city officials will put on a plane anyone who asks to go anywhere in the U.S. mainland (the Lower 48, as Alaskans like to call it).

"It's an opportunity to make choices and have some autonomy over their own circumstances," says Alexis Johnson, the housing and homeless coordinator for Anchorage. Johnson expects that the mayor's office will ask the City Council for funding for the plane tickets (about $50,000 she estimates) or raise private funds.

It's not that unusual for city officials to think that people camping on their streets can be persuaded to move into a neighboring municipality and set up a tent there. L.A. city officials spend a lot of time trying to discourage that and get other cities in L.A. county to pull their weight when it comes to providing temporary and permanent housing for homeless people.

But flying people out of one city to another one is irresponsible when there is no family member or friend on the other end. Where will these people find housing? Will they get traveling money along with the plane ticket?

See ANCHORAGE on Page 9

FLOATING BARRIER WITH RAZOR WIRE... HOW CAN TEXAS TREAT MIGRANTS THAT WAY?!
Not so loud... Migrants on NYC streets are trying to sleep...
MARGULIES

How McConnell drove Trump's getaway bandwagon

By MARTIN SCHRAM
Tribune News Service

Martin Schram, an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service, is a veteran Washington journalist, author and TV documentary executive. Readers may send him email at martin.schram@gmail.com.

America's democracy, long admired and imitated around the world, now seems to be hurtling uncontrollably toward a 2024 presidential election campaign discombobulation unlike anything we have ever seen – or our visionary Founders even imagined.

The campaign woe will mainly affect only one political party – the Republicans. And it will be happening to Republicans because Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell and most Senate Republicans failed to make a patriotic leadership decision two years ago. Even though they knew, in their hearts, it was in the best interests of their party, their voters, and especially, their nation.

Here's the Republicans' 2024 problem: Their overwhelming presidential frontrunner won't be able to campaign normally. Frontrunner Donald Trump will probably be in a federal courtroom during the primaries and caucuses and/or the fall campaign – the first U.S. president ever on trial for crimes allegedly committed while president. Trump was arraigned in the U.S. district court in Washington on Thursday. He was charged on four criminal counts of seeking and conspiring to overthrow his 2020 reelection loss.

McConnell and his fellow Senate Republicans knew all about the horrible wrongs Trump committed as president – including his panicky persistence at overturning his reelection defeat. It was presented to us all in 2021 in words that were powerful and persuasive. Indeed, to read that case today is to realize that the case that was made then, during the Senate trial of the second House impeachment of Trump was, in its own way, as compelling as the widely-praised 45-page indictment Special Counsel Jack Smith made public Wednesday.

The advocacy presentation began with a denunciation of Trump's speech that inflamed the Jan. 6, 2021, violent break-in aimed at preventing Congress from certifying Joe Biden's election victory:

"January 6 was a disgrace. American citizens attacked their own government. They used terrorism to try to stop a specific piece of domestic business they did not like….

"Fellow Americans beat and bloodied our own police. They stormed the Senate floor. They tried to hunt down the Speaker of the House. They built a gallows and chanted about murdering the Vice President. They did this because they had been fed wild falsehoods by the most powerful man on Earth because he was angry he lost an election….

"There is no question— none—that President Trump is practically and morally responsible for provoking the events of the day. …The people who stormed this building believed they were acting on the wishes and instructions of their President …the growing crescendo of false statements, conspiracy theories, and reckless hyperbole which the defeated President kept shouting into the largest megaphone on planet Earth….

"It was also …the increasingly wild myths— myths—about a reverse landslide election that was somehow being stolen in some secret coup by our now-President….

"It was obvious that only President Trump could end this.… The President did not act swiftly. He did not do his job. …He kept pressing his scheme to overturn the election…."

The advocate's compelling case for action against Trump was as powerful as anything we heard from the Jan. 6 House panel's case for impeaching Trump for his outrageous attempts to overthrow the 2020 election.

But those words were spoken by Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, on Feb. 13, 2021, after the Senate's trial of the second House impeachment of Trump. Yet, after making a compelling case for convicting and impeaching Trump, the Republican leader hit the brakes and made a narrowly defined judicial justification for his no-action vote of "not guilty" – only because Trump was no longer president. He called it a "close call." After all, Trump was president the day the House impeached him and he was guilty of doing what he did.

Besides, McConnell said, Trump can still be prosecuted for his crimes. So, McConnell added:

"He didn't get away with anything yet—yet."

But that's simply wrong. A Senate impeachment conviction would have legally prevented Trump from ever serving again as president.

If our Founders wanted impeachment to be just a narrowly defined judicial decision, they would've just put the Supreme Court in charge of deciding impeachment convictions. But the Founders sensed this ultimate governance decision might require political judgment. So they made it the Senate's role.

Now look at your news screen: That's Trump out there, running for president – even while he's facing criminal trial for his crimes and schemes to sabotage America's democracy. His best hope now is to become president and pardon himself.

As Trump sees it, he sure has gotten away with it – at least so far. With a little help from his non-friend. Ol' Mitch sure isn't Trump's favorite speechmaker. But McConnell gave Trump the help he couldn't get anywhere else, back on that Senate impeachment day – and became the unlikely de facto driver of Trump's getaway bandwagon.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Are UFOs a threat to national security?

By TYLER COWEN
Bloomberg Opinion

Tyler Cowen is a Bloomberg Opinion *columnist. He is a professor of economics at George Mason University and writes for the blog* Marginal Revolution. *He is coauthor of* Talent: How to Identify Energizers, Creatives, and Winners Around the World.

Last week's congressional hearings on UAPs, more popularly known as UFOs, were unusual even by the standards of U.S. politics—in both content and style. Not only did members of the military and intelligence community claim, under oath, that truly inexplicable events occur on a regular basis, but members of Congress from both parties treated them with respect.

In all, the proceedings restored my faith in one of my favorite maxims: Sincerity is the most underrated motive in politics. The hearings themselves send the signal that it is OK to talk and even speculate about this topic—and may even help us get closer to the truth.

That is not to say that I believed everything I heard. I do not think that the U.S. government has the remains of alien spacecraft, for example, including some alien bodies, as claimed by retired Air Force Major David Grusch. But the rest of the evidence was presented in a suitably serious and persuasive manner. It is clear, at least to me, that there is no conspiracy, and the U.S. government is itself puzzled by the data about unidentified anomalous phenomena.

The most notable claim from the hearings, including from former F-18 Navy pilot Ryan Graves, is that there have been repeated sightings of highly unusual craft over eight years or more—confirmed by a mix of consistent radar, infrared and eyewitness data. These craft, some of which take the shape of a sphere encompassing a cube, can both hover and move very fast without any visible signs of propulsion.

Of course, there will always be people who lie, suffer from delusions or are otherwise unreliable. But none of these claims is news to those of us who have been following the UAP debate, and it is striking that none of the elected officials in the room challenged the Graves claims. (There was, in contrast, pushback against Grusch's claims.)

Members of Congress, to the extent they desire, have independent access to military and intelligence sources. They also have political ambitions, if only to be reelected. So the mere fact of their participation in these hearings shows that UFOs/UAPs are now being taken seriously as an issue.

The Pentagon issued a statement claiming it holds no alien bodies, but it did nothing to contradict the statements of Graves (or others with similar claims, outside the hearings). More broadly, there have been no signs of anyone with eyewitness experience asserting that Graves and the other pilots are unreliable.

As is so often the case, the most notable events are those that did not happen. The most serious claims from the hearings survived unscathed: those about inexplicable phenomena and possible national-security threats, not the hypotheses about alien craft or visits.

The U.S. military is a huge bureaucracy that is programmed to respond to potential national-security threats. If so many insiders believe that the U.S. does not control its own airspace, and in the proximity of its own military equipment, that is a crisis of sorts, even if those insiders are misunderstanding the data.

The system will not do nothing indefinitely—and these hearings are best understood as an attempt to do something. Some people in government had the idea that hearings would be useful, and no one had a better idea. If you listen to the beginning of the hearings, you will hear a good articulation of the position that possible national-security and aviation-safety threats cannot go forever uninvestigated. It is striking how often the discussion turned to national security.

Every now and then, it's appropriate to take the government literally.

I suspect that, from here on out, this topic will become more popular—and somewhat less respectable. A few years ago, UAPs were an issue on which a few people "in the know" could speculate, secure in the knowledge they weren't going to receive much publicity or pushback. As the chatter increases, the issue will become more prominent, but at the same time a lot of smart observers will dismiss the whole thing because they heard that someone testified before Congress about seeing dead aliens.

I am well aware that many people may conclude that some U.S. officials, or some parts of the U.S. government, have gone absolutely crazy. But even under that dismissive interpretation, it is likely that there will be further surprises.

American education and the great white lies

By DAVID REDMAN
The Baltimore Sun

David Redman is an associate professor at Seokyung University in Seoul, South Korea, and managing director of Ten O'clock Productions Inc., based in Canada. He is currently working on a book about Eurocentrism and early print history.

Recent battles over how to teach history in American schools have focused on views of America's domestic racism, but that's only one piece of the problem of how we view history. Our pre-college curriculums and popular histories are filled with stories of great white men who single-handedly changed the world. This heroification, however, is often as much a made-up history as the stories of Marvel heroes in the movies. Many of these supposed groundbreakers were in fact preceded by generations of people including persons from other cultures and nations.

We're taught that one man, James Watt, an 18th-century Scot, is responsible for steam power—but steam power was being used 2,000 years earlier in Egypt. American Thomas Edison "invented" the light bulb a century after it was in development by inventors such as Alexander Lodygin from Tambov Governorate of the Russian Empire, Italian Alessandro Cruto and the African-American inventor, Lewis Howard Latimer's filament patents allowed for the commercialization of the light bulb. And while Alexander Graham Bell, born in Edinburgh but working in the United States, is credited with inventing the telephone, his work followed decades of work by others, such as Italian, Antonio Meucco, and the 1200-year-old acoustic telephone technology from the Chimu Culture of Peru, stored at the National Museum of the American Indian in Washington.

Why does this matter? Because claiming exceptional performance only by people of Western European descent, and ignoring what non-Western Europeans have done, propagates negative attitudes toward other groups—a reality that has led to racism, anti-immigrant sentiments and white supremacy.

Arguably the most problematic of these ethnocentric myths involves what's often called the most important invention of the last millennium: the celebration of Germany's Johannes Gutenberg as the inventor of movable metal type. Historians often say that Gutenberg's mid-15th century invention led to some of the most important changes in western history—including the Protestant Reformation, nationalism, capitalism, individualism and democracy. Gutenberg, we're told, was one of the most influential people in human history because of the movable metal print he invented.

It was an incredible achievement, in that telling.

But it's not true.

In 1377, about two decades before Gutenberg was born, an anthology of Buddhist teachings was printed in Korea with movable metal type. This book, "Baegun hwasang chorok buljo jikji simche yojeol"—often known as "Jikji"—was recognized by UNESCO as the oldest extant movable metal print book in 2001, though few people have yet heard of it. In fact, in 2013, when I visited the French National Library to apply to see this ancient artifact, none of the staff I encountered knew anything about it.

Eventually, they discovered on their intranet system that "Jikji" was locked away in a basement vault in the old Richelieu branch in central Paris. The fact that this first-ever movable metal print book was hidden in this major Western institution spurred me to make the 2017 documentary "Dancing with Jikji," which explores Eurocentrism and early print history. The French National Library wouldn't cooperate with us or allow us to film the book, which remained concealed in the library's basement vault.

This summer, though, the library finally displayed "Jikji" at an exhibition on early print. I was excited to hear about this development—figuring the book would receive some well-deserved attention—until I read the title of the exhibit: "Printing! Gutenberg's Europe." How, I wondered, could Gutenberg remain so much the star that there would be no mention of "Jikji" in the title?

Once people look into the history of movable metal print in 13th century Korea, some still rationalize Gutenberg's celebrity by arguing that his invention was made independently; Korea was just too far to have had influence. But in fact, there were dynamic exchanges of goods and culture along the Silk Road for millennia, especially between the 12th and 14th centuries. At a conference in Seoul in 2005, Al Gore told the story of Christian monks returning to Europe from Korea with samples of movable metal print, which they gave to Gutenberg. Our film revealed a 14th-century letter, in which Pope John XXII thanks the King of Korea for welcoming monks into Korea prior to 1333. The letter, held by the Vatican Secret Archives, gives some inconvenient proof to those who deny the possibility that Al Gore's story may have merit.

There is no longer an excuse for not promoting a more inclusive and expansive history and disrupting this Eurocentric view of the world. That means not only recognizing Korean technology in this instance, but also acknowledging that such inventions were multinational, intercultural and often multi-century developments. The print technology that changed the world was a venture of resourceful people across continents, building and remaking the devices that eventually changed how humans recorded and disseminated information.

We will not be able to stamp out the misguided white nationalist movement that is disrupting society in America and elsewhere until we recognize a history that reflects our interconnectedness—not a fabricated Eurocentric worldview and the fables of a few great white men.

ANCHORAGE

From page 8

The homeless population of Anchorage is a mere fraction of what it is in Los Angeles—but as in L.A., the numbers are going in the wrong direction. The last annual tally counted more than 46,000 homeless people in the city of L.A., up 10% from last year. Anchorage's 2023 homeless count recorded 1,760 people living on the street and in overnight shelters—up from 1,494 last year. About 750 of those are camping outside.

The fear, say Anchorage officials, is that they will die in freezing temperatures. Last year 24 homeless people died—about a third of those due to exposure to cold weather, according to Johnson. So far this year, 29 people have died, surpassing last year's tally.

It's not that Anchorage has done nothing for its unsheltered residents. The city has helped organizations buy hotels and motels to use as interim and permanent housing for homeless people, and has given out emergency housing vouchers. Johnson says the city wants to get federal funding for hotel and motel rooms to be used as temporary housing. She sees the offer of plane tickets as a supplement to whatever shelter is available in town when November rolls around and there is snow on the ground.

Getting homeless people into housing is not easy anywhere. But Anchorage officials should be more aggressive in making the case for desperately needed funding for homeless housing from state and federal sources—and save the plane tickets for their own trips to Washington, D.C. to plead for assistance.

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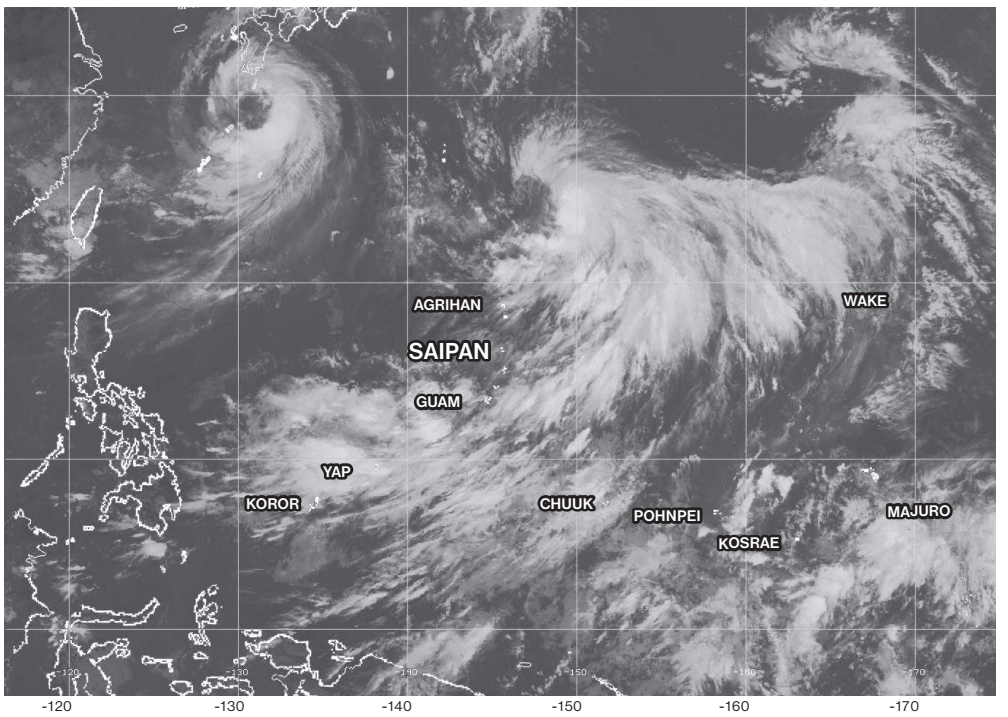
The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Scattered showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy	Showers likely and possibly a thunderstorm. Cloudy	A 50 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy	A chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy	Showers likely and possibly a thunderstorm. Mostly cloudy
84° 80°	87° 80°	86° 79°	86° 80°	87° 79°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 9:01 AM, TUESDAY, AUGUST 8, 2023

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A wet weather pattern will persist across the Marianas through the coming weekend.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: https://www.weather.gov/gum/

MICRONESIA	▲ ▼ °F	
Guam and Rota	Mostly Cloudy	88° / 81°
Palau	Light Rain Shower	85° / 79°
Yap	Cloudy	83° / 80°
Chuuk	Cloudy	87° / 80°
Pohnpei	Cloudy	88° / 76°
Kosrae	Cloudy	86° / 78°
Majuro	Cloudy	83° / 79°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:00 AM	6:44 PM
Wednesday	6:01 AM	6:43 PM
Thursday	6:01 AM	6:43 PM
Friday	6:01 AM	6:42 PM
Saturday	6:01 AM	6:42 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	12:02 PM	11:47 PM
Wednesday	-	12:57 PM	-
Thursday	12:31 AM	1:53 PM	-
Friday	1:19 AM	2:49 PM	-
Saturday	2:09 AM	3:43 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE	▲ ▼ °F	
Auckland	Cloudy	59° / 48°
Beijing	Mostly Cloudy	84° / 76°
Hong Kong	Fair	91° / 83°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy/Wind	85° / 77°
London	Partly Cloudy	71° / 52°
Los Angeles	Clear	89° / 66°
Manila	Partly Cloudy	89° / 82°
Melbourne	Sunny	56° / 41°
Miami	Clear	93° / 84°
New York	Partly Cloudy	80° / 68°
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	95° / 77°
Paris	Clear	72° / 55°
Busan	Partly Cloudy	90° / 79°
Rome	Fair	84° / 65°
Salem	Partly Cloudy	94° / 71°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	74° / 58°
Seoul	Sunny	96° / 78°
Tokyo	Mostly Cloudy	93° / 82°
Washington, DC	Thunderstorm	89° / 70°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY	FEET	
12:53 AM	High Tide	2.02
8:24 AM	Low Tide	0.33
3:26 PM	High Tide	1.65
8:07 PM	Low Tide	1.30

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 1, 2023

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:50AM	10:30AM	Daily
UA156	7:10PM	7:55PM	1, 4

SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)

UA824	7:25AM	9:55AM	1, 3, 5

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	1, 3, 4, 5, 7
PR 111	6:55AM	8:55AM	2, 6
UA193	6:55PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	7:15PM	9:10PM	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/703	4:20AM	10:35PM	Daily
7C3403/2305	4:45AM	10:20PM	Daily
UA117/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam
UA117/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	Daily
OZ626	4:20AM	7:55AM	Daily
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily
TW9308	4:55AM	8:45AM	1, 5
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:20AM	6:30AM	1, 4, 5, 7

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	8:00AM	8:50AM	Daily
UA112	5:15PM	6:05PM	1, 4

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

UA825	9:25PM	1:50AM+1	2, 4, 7

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

UA184	10:25PM	4:25AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA192	10:25PM	6:10AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	2, 3, 5, 6, 7
PR110	11:30PM	5:25AM+1	1, 5
UA184	11:50PM	5:50AM+1	2, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ702/625	12:05PM	2:55AM+1	Daily
UA184/174	10:25PM	8:50AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
UA192/174	10:25PM	8:50AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
7C2306/3406	11:10PM	3:10PM+1	Daily
UA184/174	11:50PM	8:50AM+1	2, 5 via Guam

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily
TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	Daily
OZ625	9:25PM	2:55AM+1	Daily
TW9307	10:00PM	3:45AM+1	4, 7
7C3404	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:35PM	2:20AM+1	3, 4, 6, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30	9:00	Daily
1302	11:00	11:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
1302	12:00	12:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
1303	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

LIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	12:00	12:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	13:00	13:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
3102	14:00	14:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
3103	16:30	17:00	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Daily

Business

CarterJams670: Your one-stop shop for web design

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Carter Widmor relocated his music school, instrument repair shop, recording studio, and website business from Los Angeles when he moved to Saipan a couple of years ago and CarterJams670 is now the island's one-stop shop for web design.

"CarterJams was started in 2020 in Los Angeles and CarterJams670 is now proudly entering its second year of service on Saipan. I can handle advertising, marketing, web design, support, and hosting. I'm a bit of a one-stop shop for local businesses looking to take things to the next level," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Widmor said the website design facet of CarterJams670 seems to be clicking at the moment and his services come at a fraction of the cost of usual web design companies.

"I am currently providing web design solutions to local businesses at a special discounted rate. The cost depends on how intricate the request is. More time-intensive tasks will consume more labor hours and cost more than a very simple website, for example. I can also set up Google business profiles, launch advertising and marketing campaigns, all with analytics that you can track in real time to monitor the health of your business. At any rate, we guarantee to be more cost effective than our competitors. Simple websites can typically be made for $400 or less and will only cost $20 a month to maintain."

Widmor said what sets aside his web design work is that he's more easily accessible than say similar web design outfits in the Philippines, China, India, among others.

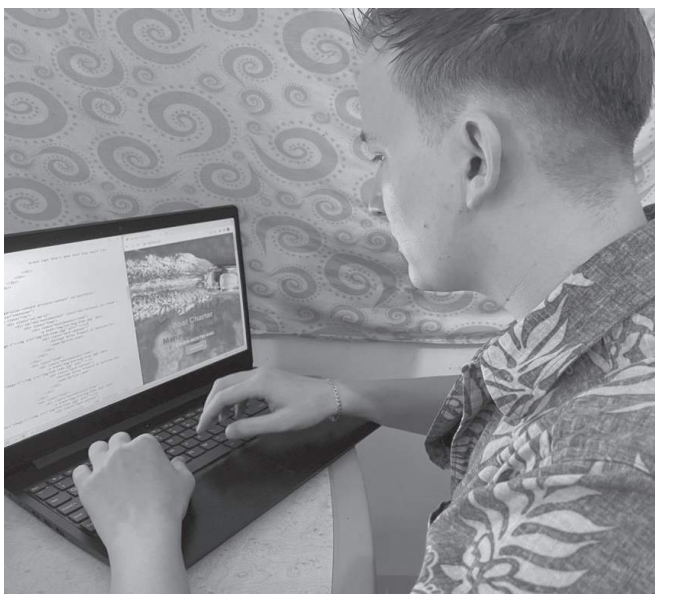
"Most business owners I've talked to on the island said they have paid thousands for the initial design of their website and pay hundreds every month for maintenance, support, and hosting. Not only is doing business with a local web designer much more practical and efficient than working with someone overseas, but it's much more affordable," he said.

Just some of the local companies that have contracted CarterJames670 for web design work include Northern Marianas International School, First Steps Daycare, Jungle Shopping, Loomis LLC, CaptNite's Boat Charter (Managaha Charter Service), Micronesian Car Rental, Living Waters, United Pentecostal Church of Micronesia, and Eucon International University.

Widmor also said the music side of CarterJams670 is still there as it's his original passion.

"I also offer music lessons in the form of guitar, ukulele, and bass. Lessons are $10 each and can be scheduled once or twice per week. If you have no car or simply would like to learn in your own home, I do outcalls for $5 more."

For more information about CarterJams670, go to their website at carterjams.com, email them at help@carterjams.com, or call (670) 785-2313.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
CarterJams670 owner Carter Widmor said what sets aside his web design work is that he's more easily accessible than say similar web design outfits in the Philippines, China, India, among others.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
CarterJams670 also offers music lessons in guitar, ukulele, and bass.

Aramco profits down nearly 40% from last year due to lower prices

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)—Saudi state-run oil giant Aramco on Monday reported $30 billion in second quarter profit, a nearly 40% decline from the same period the previous year that it attributed to lower oil prices.

Total sales stood at just over $106 billion, down from $150 billion in the second quarter of 2022. In an earnings report filed with the Saudi stock exchange, Aramco said the decrease "mainly reflected the impact of lower crude oil prices and weakening refining and chemicals margins."

The company reported net income of $30 billion, compared to $48 billion in the second quarter of 2022, a decline of 37.8%.

Aramco nevertheless raised its dividend paid out to investors to $29.38 billion, compared to $18.8 billion in the second quarter of 2022. The performance-based dividend is partly based on the company's record earnings last year, it said.

"Our strong results reflect our resilience and ability to adapt through market cycles," Aramco CEO Amin Nasser said in a statement accompanying the report. The company's shares rose 1.08% on Monday.

Last week, Fortune magazine ranked Aramco, officially known as the Saudi Arabian Oil Co., the second biggest company in the world by revenue, behind only Walmart and ahead of Amazon and Apple. The ranking came after the oil company reported a profit of over $160 billion in 2022, the largest ever recorded by a publicly traded firm.

Those kinds of earnings will come under heightened scrutiny later this year when the United Arab Emirates, another major oil producer, hosts annual U.N. climate talks aimed at getting the world to slash emissions and reduce its reliance on fossil fuels.

Aramco benefited from a spike in oil prices last year caused by Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Internationally traded oil peaked at over $120 a barrel in June 2022 before settling in a range of $75 to $85 for much of the past year.

Robin Mills, CEO of Qamar Energy, an energy consultancy based in the UAE, said it was "not surprising" that Aramco's earnings slid, adding that it has fared better than some other oil majors in the recent downturn.

"A relatively good result for Aramco, given the situation," he said.

Saudi Arabia has repeatedly cut its oil production in recent months and pressed fellow OPEC members to do the same in an attempt to push up prices in the face of weaker demand from China and rising interest rates aimed at combatting inflation.

The kingdom needs high oil prices to fund Vision 2030, a costly and wide-ranging plan to overhaul its economy and transform itself into a regional hub for business and tourism. The plan includes several so-called "gigaprojects," including the construction of a futuristic $500 billion city on the Red Sea coast.

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
OFFICIAL SEAL
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE

DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB23-OGM-42300091

SUBMISSION DATE: SEPTEMBER 12, 2023
TIME: 9:30 A.M.

"PAKPAK BEACH PARK CONSTRUCTION PROJECT, SAIPAN"

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THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ EPIPHANIO E. CABRERA, JR.
ADMINISTRATOR, OGM

/S/ GERALDINE T. CRUZ
ACTING DIRECTOR, PS

Nation

'Of course' Trump lost '20 election, DeSantis says after years of hedging

NEW YORK (AP)—Republican presidential candidate Ron DeSantis said definitively that rival Donald Trump lost the 2020 election, an acknowledgment the Florida governor made after years of equivocating answers.

"Of course he lost," DeSantis said in an interview with NBC News posted Monday. "Joe Biden's the president."

DeSantis has often sidestepped questions about whether he believes the 2020 election results were legitimate. But in recent days he has started publicly questioning the lies that Trump and his allies have made about the election's legitimacy.

Federal and state election officials and Trump's own attorney general said there was no credible evidence the election's outcome was affected by fraud. The former president's allegations were also roundly rejected by courts at the time, including judges he appointed.

Last week, Trump was charged by Justice Department special counsel Jack Smith with four felonies related to his efforts to overturn the results of the 2020 election in the run-up to the violent riot by his supporters at the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021.

DeSantis' shift in rhetoric has come as he seeks to reset his stagnant 2024 White House campaign. Trump, who remains widely popular with the Republican Party base, is the early and commanding front-runner in next year's GOP presidential primary.

AP

Republican presidential candidate Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis speaks during a fundraising event for U.S. Rep. Ashley Hinson, R-Iowa, Sunday, Aug. 6, 2023, in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

DeSantis in his interview at first didn't offer a clear answer when asked if Trump lost, saying, "Whoever puts their hand on the Bible on Jan. 20 every four years is the winner." But he gave a more direct answer when pressed again.

The governor repeated his concerns about voting methods from the 2020 election, criticizing mail voting and so-called "ballot harvesting," but like other Republicans he said he would embrace the methods he had criticized.

"We are going to do it, too. We're not going to fight with one hand tied behind our backs," DeSantis said.

Academic research has shown that mail voting increases turnout but doesn't benefit either party. Campaigns have normally pushed for it, allowing them to lock in votes early and focus their efforts on Election Day to encourage straggling supporters to get to the polls.

"The issue is, I think, what people in the media and elsewhere, they want to act like somehow this was just like the perfect election. I don't think it was a good-run election, but I also think Republicans didn't fight back. You've got to fight back when that is happening," he said.

DeSantis has cast himself on the campaign trail as someone who could more successfully implement Trump's politics and has walked a wobbly line criticizing his actions.

Last month, he said Trump should have offered a stronger condemnation of the Jan. 6 attack. But he also said it was not an insurrection but a "protest" that "ended up devolving, you know, in a way that was unfortunate."

DeSantis has argued Republicans will lose in 2024 if they're focusing on the past election and the former president's legal problems, which also includes federal charges of mishandling classified documents, including those stored at Mar-a-Lago in a ballroom and bathroom, among other spaces.

"If the election is a referendum on Joe Biden's policies and the failures that we've seen and we are presenting a positive vision for the future, we will win the presidency," DeSantis told NBC. "If, on the other hand, the election is not about Jan. 20, 2025, but Jan. 6, 2021, or what document was left by the toilet at Mar-a-Lago, if it's a referendum on that, we are going to lose."

Biden heads west for a policy victory lap, drawing implicit contrast with Trump

TUSAYAN, Ariz. (AP)—President Joe Biden set out Monday on a Western swing aimed at showcasing his work on conservation, clean energy and veterans' benefits as he seeks to draw an implicit contrast between his administration's accomplishments and former President Donald Trump's legal troubles.

Biden's first stop will be the Grand Canyon area, where on Tuesday he will announce a new national monument to preserve about 1,562 square miles (4,046 square kilometers) around Grand Canyon National Park and limit uranium mining, White House officials said.

Climate adviser Ali Zaidi told reporters accompanying Biden aboard Air Force One on Monday that the president will designate his fifth national monument during the stop in northern Arizona. He said a dozen tribes had "stepped up" and asked for the monument.

After Arizona, Biden will travel to New Mexico and Utah.

The Democratic president will be in Albuquerque on Wednesday and will talk about how fighting climate change has created new jobs, and he'll visit Salt Lake City on Thursday to mark the first anniversary of the PACT Act, which provides new benefits to veterans who were exposed to toxic substances. He'll also hold a reelection fundraiser in each city.

Biden will use the three-night trip to "continue to highlight the progress he's making across his agenda," particularly when it comes to climate change, said Natalie Quillian, the White House deputy chief of staff.

"You can expect to us to highlight more groundbreakings of projects, more ribbon cuttings and opportunities to show the American people how these investments and jobs are reaching their communities and their neighborhoods," she said.

The White House has been pushing to demonstrate the impact of Biden's policies, hoping to harness lower inflation numbers and strong employment figures to alleviate the president's sagging poll numbers.

Biden is fresh from more than a week of vacation at his homes in Rehoboth Beach and Wilmington, Delaware. On the day that Trump faced a new indictment for attempting to overturn his 2020 election loss, Biden went to a fish restaurant with first lady Jill Biden, saw the movie "Oppenheimer" and took a moonlit walk across the beach.

He hasn't commented about the charges against his Republican predecessor, maintaining the same strategic silence he did regarding the previous two indictments.

2 dead, thousands of flight cancellations, 1.1M lose power in eastern US storms

WASHINGTON (AP)—At least two people died, thousands of U.S. flights were canceled or delayed, and more than 1.1 million homes and businesses lost power Monday as severe storms, including hail and lightning, moved through the eastern U.S.

The National Weather Service issued a tornado watch for the greater D.C. area, lasting until 9 p.m. A special Weather Service statement warned, "There is a significant threat for damaging and locally destructive hurricane-force winds, along with the potential for large hail and tornadoes, even strong tornadoes."

The storms' spread was massive, with tornado watches and warnings posted across 10 states from Tennessee to New York. The National Weather Service said more than 29.5 million people were under a tornado watch Monday afternoon.

In Anderson, South Carolina, a 15-year-old boy who arrived at his grandparent's house during the storm was struck and killed when a tree fell on him as he got out of a car, according to the Anderson County Office of the Coroner.

In Florence, Alabama, police said a 28-year-old man was struck by lightning and died, WAAY-TV reported.

By Monday night, more than 2,600 U.S. flights had been canceled and nearly 7,900 delayed, according to flight tracking service FlightAware. Many cancellations were at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport, which was digging out from disruptions caused by Sunday storms.

The Federal Aviation Administration said it was rerouting planes around storms heading to the East Coast.

The White House pushed up by 90 minutes President Joe Biden's departure on a four-day trip that's taking him to Arizona, New Mexico and Utah. The White House also canceled a back-to-school cybersecurity event that was to feature first lady Jill Biden, who is a teacher, Education Secretary Miguel Cardona, Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas and school administrators, educators and education technology providers from around the country.

The Office of Personnel Management announced Monday that all non-emergency employees would have to depart before 3 p.m., when all federal offices closed.

"This does look to be one of the most impactful severe weather events across the Mid-Atlantic that we have had in some time," National Weather Service meteorologist Chris Strong said in a Facebook live briefing.

The storms were expected to strike major population areas in late afternoon and early evening, prompting federal workers to be sent home early so they wouldn't be in their cars amid wind, hail and tornadoes.

Asia

Kim tours weapons factories, vows to advance N. Korea war readiness

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korean leader Kim Jong Un toured the country's key weapons factories, including those producing artillery systems and launch vehicles for nuclear-capable ballistic missiles, and pledged to speed up efforts to advance his military's arms and war readiness, state media said Sunday.

Kim's three-day inspections through Saturday came as the United States and South Korea prepared for their next round of combined military exercises planned for later this month to counter the growing North Korean threat.

Tensions on the Korean Peninsula are at their highest level in years as the pace of North Korea's missile tests and the joint U.S.-South Korea military drills, which Kim portrays as invasion rehearsals, have both intensified in a tit-for-tat cycle.

Some experts say Kim's tour of the weapons factories could also be related to possible military cooperation with Moscow that may involve North Korean supplies of artillery and other ammunition as Russian President Vladimir Putin reaches out to other countries for support in the war in Ukraine. Koo Byoungsam, spokesperson of South Korea's Unification Ministry, which handles inter-Korean affairs, said Friday that Kim's staged visits to the arms factories are possibly aimed at both demonstrating North Korea's military might in the face of U.S.-South Korean drills and also communicating an intent to export weapons.

"We express deep regret that North Korea continues to develop nuclear weapons and ICBMs (intercontinental ballistic missiles) as well as conventional weapons at the expense of the wellbeing of its citizens," Koo said during a briefing.

During a visit to an unspecified factory producing large-caliber artillery systems, Kim stressed the facility's "important responsibility and duty" in further boosting his military's "war preparations," North Korea's official Korean Central News Agency said.

Kim praised the factory's efforts to employ "scientific and technological measures" to improve the quality of shells, reduce processing times for propellent tubes and increase manufacturing speed. He also urged the factory to move ahead with development and large-scale production of new kinds of ammunition, the KCNA said.

Kim echoed the message in visits to two other factories, calling the delivery of launcher trucks designed to transport and fire ballistic missiles "a top priority" for the military and urging for the "rapid expansion" of production of more reliable engines for cruise missiles and drones.

North Korean photos showed Kim walking past huge launcher trucks designed for intercontinental ballistic missiles which recent tests indicated they could potentially reach the U.S. mainland. Other photos showed Kim firing scoped rifles during a visit to a small arms factory where he said soldiers' firearms need to be modernized, according to KCNA.

In the face of deepening confrontations with Washington and Seoul, Kim has been trying boost the visibility of his partnerships with Moscow and Beijing as he tries to break out of diplomatic isolation and insert himself into a united front against the United States.

His tour of the weapons factories comes after a giant military parade last month in North Korea's capital, Pyongyang, where Kim was joined by Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu and a Chinese ruling party official while rolling out his most powerful missiles designed to target South Korea and the United States.

S. Korea begins evacuating thousands of global Scouts

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—Buses began moving thousands of global Scouts from their campsite on South Korea's coast to inland venues Tuesday ahead of a tropical storm that is forecast to bring intense rains and strong winds to the peninsula within days.

More than 1,000 vehicles are being used to move 37,000 Scouts—mostly teenagers—from the World Scout Jamboree that opened last week in Buan, a county on South Korea's southwestern coast. Most will be accommodated in Seoul and the capital's metropolitan area, where officials have secured university dormitories, government and corporate training centers, and hotels.

Tropical Storm Khanun has meandered around Japan's southwestern islands for more than a week, dumping heavy rain, knocking out power and damaging homes.

Early Tuesday morning, the storm was centered 350 kilometers (217 miles) south of Kagoshima, a city on the southwestern tip of Japan's main southern island of Kyushu. Khanun had winds of 108 kph (67 mph) with gusts to 144 kph (89 mph) and was moving slowly north, the Japan Meteorological Agency said.

South Korea's weather agency, which measured the storm at typhoon strength of 126 kph (78 mph), expected it to gain strength slightly before making landfall Thursday morning. It's expected to bring strong winds and heavy rains to South Korea from Wednesday to Friday.

South Korea's safety ministry instructed local officials to prepare to shut down coastal areas, hiking trails, river parks, underpass tunnels and other places vulnerable to flooding.

The Jamboree attended by scouts from 158 countries started last Wednesday at the campsite on land reclaimed from the sea, and hundreds of participants already were treated for heat-related ailments during one of South Korea's hottest summers in years. Concerns had been raised beforehand about having such large numbers of young people in a vast, treeless area lacking protection from the summer heat. Organizers said the campsite will not be used for any event after the Scouts leave.

More than 270 police cars and four helicopters were being deployed to escort the buses that began departing the site on 9 a.m., said Lee Sangmin, South Korea's Minister of the Interior and Safety. The evacuation is expected to take six hours or more.

More than 13,500 scouts will be accommodated at 64 different venues in Gyeonggi province, South Korea's largest province surrounding Seoul. About 3,100 scouts will stay in Seoul and another 3,200 will be sent to nearby Incheon. Nearly 9,000 scouts will be sent to 25 different venues in the North and South Chungcheong provinces in the country's central region, Lee said.

"Local governments are checking the sanitation of the accommodation venues and restrooms and are preparing medical measures to ensure that the (Scouts) would be safe and comfortable after they arrive," Lee said. "Police will patrol the accommodations while officials from the Korea Food and Drug Administration will carefully check the quality, quantity and safety of meals."

World

2 Russian missile strikes hit city in eastern Ukraine

KYIV, Ukraine (AP)—Two Russian missile strikes hit the city center of the Ukrainian city of Pokrovsk in the eastern Donetsk region Monday evening, killing at least five people and wounding two dozen more, Ukrainian officials said.

The strikes, which targeted the Ukrainian portion of a region partially occupied by Russia, occurred within 40 minutes of each other, according to Donetsk Gov. Pavlo Kyrylenko. The attack damaged nine- and five-story buildings, residential houses, a hotel where foreign journalists used to stay, dining establishments, shops and administrative buildings, he said.

Ukraine's Interior Minister Ihor Klymenko said five people, including a local official

» Killing at least 5 people, officials say

of Ukraine's State Emergency Service, were killed and 31 more were wounded by the strikes. Nineteen policemen, five rescuers and one child were among the wounded, Klymenko said.

The Suspilne news site, however, cited head of the Pokrovsk City Military Administration Serhiy Dobriak as saying that seven people were killed and 27 were wounded. The conflicting reports could not be immediately reconciled.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in an online statement accused Russia of trying to leave nothing but "broken and scorched stones" in eastern Ukraine. His remarks accompanied footage of a damaged, five-story residential building with one floor partially destroyed.

The deadly attack came just a day after officials from around 40 countries gathered in Saudi Arabia to find a peaceful settlement for the war in Ukraine. Russia's Foreign Ministry on Monday denounced the two-day talks in Jeddah as not having "the slightest added value" because Moscow—unlike Kyiv—wasn't invited.

AP

The national flag waves as workers install the Ukrainian coat of arms on the shield in the hand of the country's tallest stature, the Motherland Monument, after the Soviet coat of arms was removed, in Kyiv, Ukraine, Sunday, Aug. 6, 2023.

Niger coup leaders refuse to let senior US diplomat meet with nation's president

NIAMEY, Niger (AP)—A senior U.S. diplomat said coup leaders in Niger refused to allow her to meet Monday with the West African country's democratically elected president, whom she described as under "virtual house arrest."

Acting Deputy Secretary of State Victoria Nuland also described the mutinous officers as unreceptive to U.S. pressure to return the country to civilian rule.

"They were quite firm about how they want to proceed, and it is not in support of the constitution of Niger," Nuland told reporters. She characterized the conversations as "extremely frank and at times quite difficult."

She spoke after a two-hour meeting in Niger's capital, Niamey, with some leaders of the military takeover of a country that has been a vital counterterrorism partner of the United States.

In speaking to junta leaders, Nuland said, she made "absolutely clear the kinds of support that we will legally have to cut off if democracy is not restored."

If the U.S. determines that a democratically elected government has been toppled by unconstitutional means, federal law requires a cutoff of most American assistance, particularly military aid.

She said she also stressed U.S. concern for the welfare of President Mohamed Bazoum, who she said was being detained with his wife and son.

The meeting was with Gen. Moussa Salaou Barmou, a U.S.-trained officer, and three of the colonels involved in the takeover. The coup's top leader, former presidential guard head Abdourahamane Tchiani, did not meet with the Americans.

In other developments Monday, leaders of West Africa's regional bloc said they would meet later this week to discuss next steps after the junta defied a deadline to reinstate the president. The meeting was scheduled for Thursday in Abuja, the capital of neighboring Nigeria, according to a spokesman for the ECOWAS bloc.

Meanwhile, the junta's mutinous soldiers closed the country's airspace and accused foreign powers of preparing an attack.

State television reported the junta's latest actions Sunday night, hours before the deadline set by ECOWAS, which has warned of using military force if Bazoum is not returned to power.

A spokesman for the coup leaders, Col. Maj. Amadou Abdramane, noted "the threat of intervention being prepared in a neighboring country," and said Niger's airspace will be closed until further notice. Any attempt to fly over the country will be met with "an energetic and immediate response."

The junta also claimed that two central African countries were preparing for an invasion, but did not name them. It called on Niger's population to defend the nation.

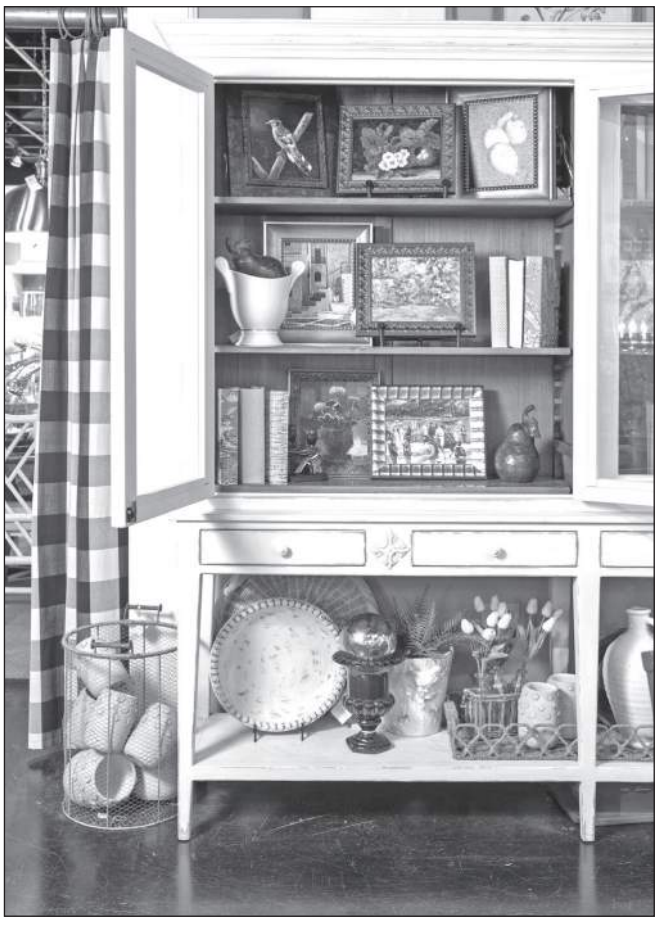
Good Housekeeping

5 steps for crafting luxurious interiors

By KATIE LAUGHRIDGE
Tribune News Service

Achieving a lavish home doesn't always require a hefty price tag. With a little creativity and strategic planning, you can transform your space into such a haven without breaking the bank.

Get ready to embark on a design journey that proves you can have the best of both worlds!



HANDOUT/TNS

A peek into this curio cabinet reveals a collection of oil paintings and books.

HANDOUT/TNS

A blue and white table display exudes new traditional elegance.

1. Define your style

Defining your style is an essential first step when creating interior spaces. Understanding and honing in on your preferred aesthetic not only sets the tone for your design direction, but also ensures a cohesive look throughout your home.

Whether your taste leans toward classic opulence, contemporary chic, or eclectic elegance, defining your style provides a roadmap for selecting the right furniture, colors and decor that align with your vision. It also allows you to create a curated collection of pieces, creating a seamless and sophisticated ambiance. By clearly defining your style, you can confidently make decisions that elevate your space.

2. Invest in high-quality furniture

Purchasing high-quality furniture is a crucial aspect of creating luxurious interior spaces, and it is an area where splurging is well worth it. High-quality pieces not only exude elegance but also offer unmatched comfort and durability. These exquisite furnishings become the focal points of your design, elevating the entire aesthetic and setting the stage for a captivating and refined living experience.

From sumptuous fabrics to intricate detailing, each piece becomes a work of art that adds depth and allure. High-quality furniture is an investment that will pay dividends in the form of enduring beauty and a living space that truly reflects your style and aspirations.

3. Choose a rich color palette

Choosing a color palette is a pivotal step when creating luxurious interior spaces, as it sets the tone of your home.

Whether you opt for rich jewel tones to infuse a regal allure or embrace neutral hues for a serene atmosphere, the color palette you select plays a vital role in shaping the mood and character of each room.

The key is to strike a harmonious balance between bold and subtle tones, allowing different shades to complement and enhance one another seamlessly.

4. Incorporate texture and layers

Incorporating texture and layers is a hallmark of creating luxurious interior spaces, infusing your home with a sense of comfort and sophistication.

By carefully selecting plush fabrics, sumptuous rugs and richly textured wall coverings, you can transform your living spaces into retreats. Layering tactile elements adds depth and visual interest, captivating the eye and enticing you to explore every corner of the room.

From soft velvet upholstery that invites a refined relaxation to intricately woven rugs that ground the space, each piece contributes to a rich and indulgent environment. Embrace the art of layering by combining different textures, patterns and materials, creating a dynamic and inviting atmosphere.

5. Pay attention to lighting

Lighting has the power to transform the mood of each room.

To achieve the perfect lighting balance, consider incorporating a mix of natural light, chandeliers and other lighting fixtures and lamps. Natural light infuses a sense of openness and freshness, while chandeliers and other statement fixtures create focal points that draw the eye and add a touch of drama. Floor and table lamps are a must for most spaces, as they illuminate without being too harsh like overhead lighting can be.

By strategically placing and layering lighting elements, you can achieve a harmonious and inviting atmosphere that showcases your interiors, allowing your luxurious living space to shine brightly day and night.

Creating luxurious interiors is a journey that encompasses a harmonious blend of design elements and thoughtful choices. By embracing these five key steps, you unlock the door to a world of refined aesthetics and create a home that truly feels like a sanctuary of luxury.

HANDOUT/TNS

An ottoman is full of unexpected texture and personality.

HANDOUT/TNS

Statement lighting and a bold rug anchor the design in this new traditional living space.

HANDOUT/TNS

A dining chair charms in sumptuous animal print.

Life & Style

Suga becomes 3rd BTS member to begin Korea military service

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Following his debut solo tour earlier this year, Suga, the K-pop superstar rapper/singer/songwriter, has become the third member of BTS to begin South Korea's compulsory military service.

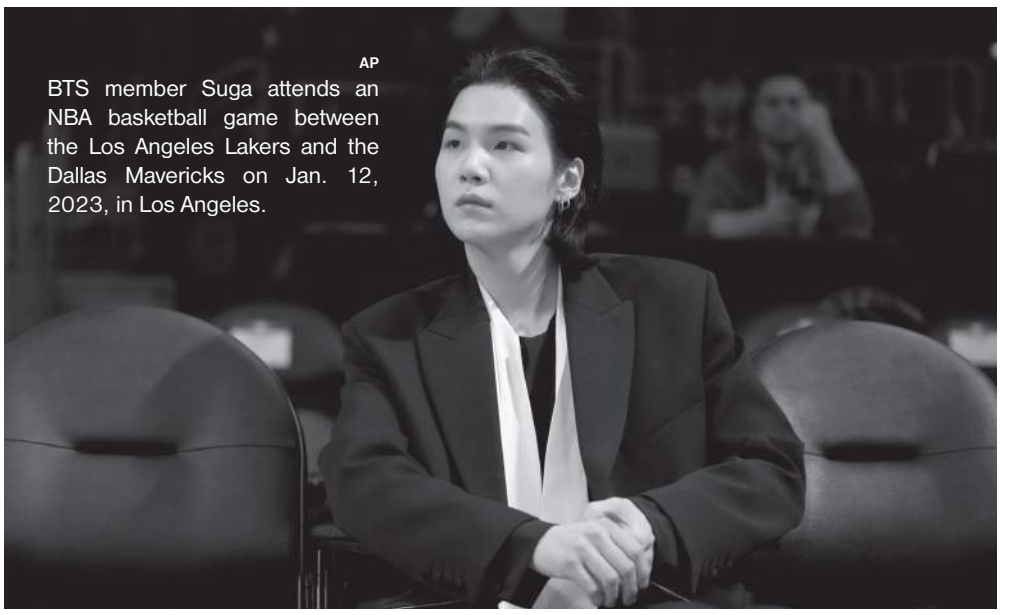
"We would like to inform our fans that SUGA has initiated the military enlistment process by applying for the termination of his enlistment postponement," Big Hit Music said in a statement.

"We ask you for your continued love and support for SUGA until he completes his military service and safely returns. Our company will spare no effort in providing support for our artist."

In South Korea, all able-bodied men aged 18 to 28 are required by law to perform 18-21 months of military service under a conscription system meant to deter aggression from rival North Korea.

The law gives special exemptions to athletes, classical and traditional musicians, and ballet and other dancers if they have obtained top prizes in certain competitions and are assessed to have enhanced national prestige. K-pop stars and other entertainers aren't subject to such privileges.

However, in 2020, BTS postponed their service until age 30 after South Korea's National Assembly revised its Military Service Act , allowing K-pop stars to delay their enlistment until age 30.



AP

BTS member Suga attends an NBA basketball game between the Los Angeles Lakers and the Dallas Mavericks on Jan. 12, 2023, in Los Angeles.

There was heated public debate in 2022 over whether to offer special exemptions of mandatory military service for BTS members, until the group's management agency announced in October that all seven members would fulfill their duties.

In December 2022, BTS's eldest member, Jin, enlisted at age 30 after revoking his request to delay his conscription. J-Hope followed suit last April.

Megan Thee Stallion describes suffering during Tory Lanez 's sentencing

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Megan Thee Stallion said she has suffered daily since rapper Tory Lanezshot her in the feet three years ago in a written statement read during Lanez's sentencing, which will stretch into Tuesday.

"Since I was viciously shot by the defendant, I have not experienced a single day of peace," Megan said in a statement read by Los Angeles County Deputy District Attorney Kathy Ta. "Slowly but surely, I'm healing and coming back, but I will never be the same."

The hip-hop star, who testified during the trial, said she struggled with whether she would appear to give the statement in person, but said she "simply could not bring myself to be in a room with Tory again."

She asked that her absence not be taken as a sign of indifference, and urged Judge David Herriford to issue a stiff sentence.

The judge had been expected to sentence Lanez Monday at a hearing that often can take only a couple of hours, but Herriford had attorneys for the two sides argue each factor of his potential sentence, and allowed seven witnesses to give statements on Lanez's charitable giving, his childhood trauma, and his status as father of a 6-year-old son.

Prosecutors are asking a judge to hand down a 13-year sentence to the 31-year-old Lanez, whose legal name is Daystar Peterson. Lanez was convicted of three felonies: assault with a semiautomatic firearm, having a loaded, unregistered firearm in a vehicle and discharging a firearm with gross negligence.

Lawyers for Lanez said in a sentencing memo that he should get only probation and be released from jail to enter a residential substance abuse program. They plan to appeal his conviction.

Megan testified during the trial that Lanez had fired the gun at the back of her feet and shouted for her to dance as she walked away from an SUV in which they had been riding in summer 2020. The pair had left a party at Kylie Jenner's Hollywood Hills home.

Lanez's father, Sonstar Peterson, a Christian minister, choked back tears in court Monday as he told the judge about his wife, Luella, dying just a few days after showing the first symptoms of a rare blood disorder that would lead to her death when Lanez was 11.

"I don't think anybody ever gets over that," he said of their youngest child, Lanez. "But his music became his outlet."

Other witnesses talked about Lanez nearly constant charitable giving even before fame and money from music came to him in 2017.

The mother of his son, Raina Cassagne, called him "the most supportive father, the funnest father."

Dozens more wrote letters to Herriford, including rapper Iggy Azalea, who asked the judge to hand down a sentence that was "transformative, not life-destroying."

The judge said Lanez's son, who is 6 years old, also sent in a handwritten letter, but Herriford did not describe it further.

A chaplain from Los Angeles County jail appeared in court and said that Lanez has led daily prayer groups that have eased tensions in the protective custody unit where he is being held.

Herriford made findings in favor of each side Monday, leaving little indication of what sentence he will give.

Star soprano Anna Netrebko sues Met Opera for its decision to cut ties over Russia-Ukraine war

By RONALD BLUM
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Soprano Anna Netrebko, once among the Metropolitan Opera's biggest box office draws, sued the company and general manager Peter Gelb on Friday, alleging defamation, breach of contract and other violations related to the institution's decision to drop her following Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

The suit, filed in U.S. District Court in Manhattan, asks for at least $360,000 in damages for lost performance and rehearsal fees. Netrebko claims the Met caused "severe mental anguish and emotional distress" that included "depression, humiliation, embarrassment, stress and anxiety, and emotional pain and suffering."

Netrebko

The Met dropped the Russian soprano from future engagements shortly after Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022. Gelb had demanded she repudiate Russia President President Vladimir Putin.

"Since Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the Met and Peter Gelb have used Anna Netrebko as a scapegoat in their campaign to distance themselves from Russia and to support Ukraine," the management of the 51-year-old soprano said in a statement.

The Met said in a statement: "Ms. Netrebko's lawsuit has no merit."

The American Guild of Musical Artists filed a grievance on Netrebko's behalf and arbitrator Howard C. Edelman ruled in February that the Met violated the union's collective bargaining agreement when it canceled deals with Netrebko to appear in Verdi's "Don Carlo" and "La Forza del Destino" and Giordano's "Andrea Chénier." He awarded her compensation for the lost performances, which the union calculated at $209,103.48.

Diminishing sex life calls for increasing communication

DEAR ABBY: My boyfriend and I are in our late 20s and have been together six years. He's a great boyfriend, and I'm happy in every way except one. Since we moved in together a year and a half ago, our sex life has dwindled down to practically zero. Sometimes we go months without it. We are busy with work and school, but I'm not sure if that's just an excuse. I know it's partly my fault because I should also take the initiative and not be lazy. I'm wondering if we're just not right for each other. Aren't the 20s supposed to be a time of sexual fun and frequency? Or does it even matter? Maybe we're just different from the norm?

CONFOUNDED IN CANADA

DEAR CONFOUNDED: If you haven't been talking with your boyfriend about this, you should be. At your age, it is unusual for partners to go for months at a time without having sex. Perhaps before you moved in together, sex was sexier because you weren't together as often. But the bottom line is, if you're not happy with the relationship as it is, it needs to be brought out into the open so it can be dealt with as a couple.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 20-year-old female in a situationship with a 46-year-old married man. He tells me he's going to leave his wife when his daughter graduates, which is in two months. He wants to move me to his state, but my family isn't supportive, so I would like an outside opinion.

CONTEMPLATING IN FLORIDA

DEAR CONTEMPLATING: How long have you and this 46-year-old man been romantically involved? I have concerns on several levels about what you are contemplating. First is the age difference and the balance of power in your relationship. Next is the fact that he hasn't yet left his family or even filed for divorce. Many men promise to leave their wives but never do. Divorces can drag out for years if they are contested, and his marriage has been a long one.

Slow this relationship down. I urge you not to move until he's free to marry, you have a job and are able to support yourself and any children that could result from this union. Let your family get to know him. They have your best interests at heart, so resist the urge to tune them out in the name of love.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Twice while visiting, my son and daughter-in-law have had arguments in front of me and their young children. The last one got so heated my DIL even left the room and went outside. It upset me and their oldest child greatly. My son's father and I argued often, and we divorced long ago. They seem to think it's OK to do this. What can I do?

STANDING BY IN TEXAS

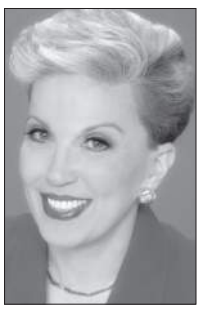
DEAR STANDING BY: I hope you realize that what your son is doing is modeling the behavior he grew up with. Talk to your son. Explain how this is affecting his children. Then suggest he and his wife seek marriage counseling so his marriage won't end in divorce court, as yours did.

■ ■ ■

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

By Abigail Van Buren
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

LOOK! SUSIE SEES THE LETTER! SHE'S PICKING IT UP! SHE'S READING THE ENVELOPE!
...SHE'S WALKING OVER HERE...
YOU DROPPED THIS LETTER FOR HOBBES. HERE.
UM... GEE, THANKS.
WELL, THAT WAS AWFULLY DECENT OF HER.
IT'S NO USE! IT'S NO USE! EVERYBODY GETS GOOD ENEMIES, EXCEPT ME!

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

FOR MY BIRTHDAY, ALL I WANT IS FOR YOU AND I TO RIDE A ROLLER COASTER.
FINE. OKAY. I'LL TAKE YOU.
DAD, THIS'LL BE GREAT! WE CAN OVERCOME YOUR FEAR TOGETHER!
YEAH. GREAT.
THEY HAVE A NEW ONE CALLED "THE NOGGIN EXPLODER."
HONEY? OUR ADVANCE DIRECTIVES ARE IN ORDER, RIGHT?

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

BWAH! HAW! HA! HAW! HA! HA HAW!
BWAH! HA-HA! HAW! HAW! HA! HA! HA!
THAT'S ONE HILARIOUS WEATHERMAN.
I FEEL BAD LAUGHING AT THE HURRICANE JOKE.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Spigot
4 English channel?
7 Lima's land
8 Guided trips
10 Ravi's instrument
11 Quiver contents
13 Jazz pianist whose '80s hit "Rockit" became a hip-hop classic
16 JFK info
17 Easy gaits
18 Mine material
19 Nicolas of "Moonstruck"
20 Hitch
21 Partner of aches
23 Like fresh apples
25 Volcanic flow
26 April forecast
27 Rock producer Brian
28 Snares
30 Online chats, briefly
33 1993 hip-hop classic by Ice Cube
36 Tranquil
37 Pollster's find
38 Challenged
39 Herbal drinks
40 Orig. texts
41 Tin Man's need

DOWN

1 Aquarium favorite
2 United — Emirates
3 Morally strict
4 Sacha Baron Cohen role
5 Documentarian Ken
6 Gator's kin
7 Painter Mondrian
8 Western resort lake
9 Feels faint
10 Cyndi Lauper's "— Bop"
12 Discard
14 Work units
15 Beer barrel
19 Spy org.
20 Fall from grace
21 Trousers
22 Acknowledged
23 Mafia boss
24 Creamy Italian dish
25 Luau necklace
26 Stormed
28 Russian rulers
29 Hotel posting
30 Perfect
31 Supplies with staff
32 Pink Floyd's Barrett
34 Eve's guy
35 Zwei follower

Solution time: 23 mins.

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A	L	A	I		N	I	N		F	O	I	L
W	A	R	P		G	R	A	F	F	I	T	I
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			E	E	E		E	T	C			
O	I	I	E	R		G	H	A	I	I	F	Y
M	A	E			S	A	S			S	E	A
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H	A	Y	D	N		G	R	A	V	I	T	Y
G	R	A	D	I	E	N	T		E	R	I	E
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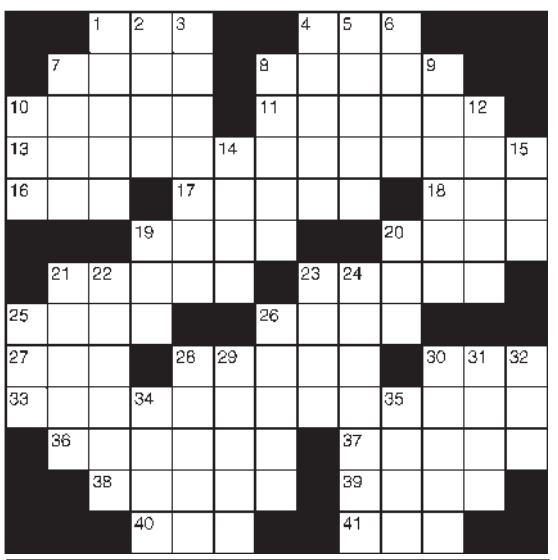
Y	A	L	E		I	W	O		S	S	T	S

Yesterday's answer 8-9



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Adelaide Kane, 33; Anna Kendrick, 38; Gillian Anderson, 55; Hoda Kotb, 59.

Happy Birthday: Take time, sort through information and consider every angle before considering a move this year. A steady pace forward, paying attention to detail and taking a minimalist approach to living and doing things your way will result in less stress and a chance to make healthy decisions. Stand by your word, and don't make unrealistic promises. Positive change begins with common sense. Your numbers are 7, 18, 21, 28, 33, 35, 42.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Avoid over-the-top behavior. Refrain from signing up for something you cannot afford or doing something that risks injury. Protect against people trying to coerce you into something you don't need or want. Focus on self-improvement and personal happiness. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Act, but don't jeopardize your reputation or position. Offer only what you can deliver, and be prepared to give a play-by-play overview for those who need extra input. How you define yourself and what you offer will make a difference. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Don't give away your secrets. Be a good listener and decide what others want from you before you engage in plans that leave you at a disadvantage. Work by yourself to achieve the most with the least amount of interference. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Choose who you decide to help with care. Someone will take advantage of you if you let them. Veer toward unusual situations that offer lessons, experience and connections to unique people. Use your skills to make home improvements. ✪✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Inconsistency will play a role in how things unfold today. When in doubt, refrain from making a comment or promise. A reserved approach will buy you time, offering the space you need to consider what's best for you. Make stress relief your priority. ✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Pay attention to detail, be open about what you are trying to achieve, and let your intuition guide and connect you to what and who can help you. A medical or financial situation will cause uncertainty if not handled with care. Don't share personal information. ✪✪✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Protect what you have, and remove what you no longer use or need. Declutter your life and lower your overhead. A definitive attitude will help you refurbish your life and set higher standards. Surround yourself with people who share your concerns. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Change will lead to opportunity. Consider what you want and must do to position yourself for success. Don't mince words or give others the impression you are flexible when you are not. It's up to you to make things happen. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Emotions will drag you down and stand between you and what you want to achieve. Be honest with yourself and others, and take the initiative to do for yourself while being considerate of others. Protect your heart from anyone who sends mixed messages. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* You're on the right track. Speak up, run the show and embrace changes that help you live the life you long for. Don't give anyone the right or means to dictate your next move. Have no regrets, and be true to yourself. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Pay attention to what's happening around you. Refuse to let the changes others make or the temptations you encounter throw you a curveball. Let your heart be the judge. With patience as your barometer, you'll find peace and happiness. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Hold your cards close to your chest. Don't allow anyone to use emotional manipulation or temptation to lead you astray. Use your intuition, experience and intelligence to maintain equality and take control. Map out the path that suits your needs. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are picky, detailed and expressive. You are over the top and proactive.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		8		1			3	
9		7		3	8	1	5	2
1		5						
		1	9	8			7	4
			5	2			9	
							6	3
7		3				4	8	9
	9		3		1	6		
		2	8	9				

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

7	2	3	9	8	5	6	4	1
4	8	6	1	3	7	2	5	9
1	9	5	2	6	4	3	7	8
6	3	7	8	4	9	1	2	5
9	4	2	6	5	1	7	8	3
5	1	8	7	2	3	4	9	6
2	7	1	3	9	8	5	6	4
3	5	9	4	7	6	8	1	2
8	6	4	5	1	2	9	3	7

Difficulty: ★★★ 8/9

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

LANCE REDDICK (1962-2023) Solution: 8 letters

S	T	E	P	H	A	N	I	E	N	N	O	V	Y	A
O	Y	O	B	D	L	O	M	L	I	F	R	F	C	F
L	P	L	F	A	R	Z	A	R	A	E	A	T	Z	R
O	A	I	E	E	V	O	L	U	T	L	O	A	E	I
M	Y	M	T	N	J	O	L	S	C	R	V	R	U	N
O	D	S	L	A	S	T	E	O	E	A	I	E	S	G
N	A	H	O	H	V	H	N	H	L	W	W	M	W	E
M	Y	C	S	N	C	E	P	A	E	A	A	A	Y	E
B	O	S	T	O	N	O	N	H	N	D	L	I	D	S
C	B	O	R	O	T	H	T	G	I	D	K	N	O	S
I	L	B	R	S	O	M	E	V	E	L	W	S	B	E
R	L	T	I	J	U	L	A	N	I	R	L	C	A	N
D	E	R	Y	B	K	D	E	G	E	I	S	I	E	N
E	H	E	L	D	P	E	S	I	D	A	R	A	P	E
C	H	A	R	O	N	O	I	S	I	V	E	L	E	T

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Actor, Album, Angel, Avengers, Bosch, Boston, Cedric, Charon, Christopher, David, Falcone, Farzar, Fault, Film, Fringe, Hellboy, Hey John, Lost, Love, Master, Milo, Oldboy, Paradise PD, Payday, Peabody, Phillip, Remains, Rochester, Siege, Solomon, Stephanie, Sylens, Television, Tennessee, The Wire, Tron, Walden, Walk, Yvonne, Zavala, Zeus

Yesterday's Answer: Vinegar

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Australia advances to quarters by beating Denmark with Sam Kerr back

SYDNEY (AP)—Australia was already on course for the quarterfinals of the Women's World Cup when Sam Kerr entered the field to wild celebrations on Monday.

With the star striker back from injury, the Matildas are confident contenders to win the tournament on home soil after beating Denmark 2-0 in the round of 16 at a raucous Stadium Australia.

"It's a massive boost to have her back," goal-scorer Caitlin Foord said. "For teams looking ahead it's pretty scary to know she's back in our team and she's going to be a part of it with us."

A crowd of 75,784 cheered as if Australia scored when Kerr was shown on the big screen preparing to come on. She had been sidelined since injuring her left calf on the eve of the tournament.

Despite that setback, Australia found a way to get by without her. But her return means the co-host can call on one of the best strikers in the world in a tournament that has seen holder the United States, Germany and Brazil eliminated before the quarterfinals.

Goals from Foord and Hayley Raso underlined the depth of the Matildas even without Kerr.

"The one thing I think has happened with this team is they were very tight and together when this tournament started," Australia coach Tony Gustavsson said. "But the tournament, the experience, the challenges and the adversity they have come through have made them even tighter."

Australia seems to be getting stronger after looking in danger of exiting in the first round from the tournament it is co-hosting with New Zealand. Gustavsson's position was under scrutiny after losing to Nigeria.

The mood has become very different with belief spreading through the team and the fans, who created a daunting atmosphere for Denmark.

"It really felt like an away game," Denmark coach Lars Sondergaard said.

Australia will face France or Morocco in Brisbane on Saturday when Kerr should be in contention to start for the first time at a World Cup she was expected to star in.

"We don't need to look at her taking over and having everything on her shoulders," Gustavsson said. "It's a team effort and a team tournament."

Still, Gustavsson considers Kerr's return the icing on the cake for his team.

This is only the second time Australia has advanced to a World Cup quarterfinal, having previously done so in 2015.

Foord fired the Matildas in front in the 29th after running on to a pass from the impressive Mary Fowler. Then Raso drilled home a second in the 70th after Emily van Egmond's lay off in the box.

"The match was decided by Australia's effectiveness in front of goal and our not-so-efficient play in front of goal," Sondergaard said. "We started the game best. Up until 1-0 we were the best team."

Excitement ahead of the game could be felt around Sydney. Even the Opera House was lit up in the yellow and green colors of the Matildas.

Back in Stadium Australia where the team began its campaign on July 20, the Matildas were still too strong for Denmark without Kerr, who was on the bench.

Foord's opener came after Fowler's incisive pass from her own half. Foord raced forward and, cutting in from the left, slipped her shot between the legs of Denmark goalkeeper Lene Christensen to spark wild fan celebrations.

Foord was close to scoring a second before halftime when a shot across goal looped just past the post with Christensen beaten.

Van Egmond's backheel from close range was then saved in the second half.

With the score still at 1-0, Gustavsson told Kerr to ready herself, but before she could make her long-awaited entrance, Raso struck.

Again, Fowler was involved, finding Van Egmond in the box. She fed Raso, who drilled a low shot through a crowded area into the bottom corner.

Kerr replaced Raso 10 minutes later to crown a night of celebrations.

ENGLAND 0 (4), NIGERIA 0 (2)

BRISBANE, Australia (AP)—Down a player after star forward Lauren James was ejected, England was facing the prospect of an upset against Nigeria and a round-of-16 exit at the Women's World Cup.

The European champion Lionesses remained calm enough to get through regulation and extra time at 0-0 and won a penalty shootout 4-2 to scrape into the quarterfinals on Monday.

England became the title favorite after the two-time reigning champion U.S. was eliminated on Sunday in a penalty shootout loss to Sweden. No. 2-ranked Germany, Olympic champion Canada and Brazil didn't even reach the knockout stage.

But the Lionesses struggled to create opportunities against Nigeria and, with five minutes remaining in regulation, an upset loomed when James received a red card after a VAR review.

AP

Denmark's Stine Ballisager and Australia's Alanna Kennedy, right, challenge for the ball during the Women's World Cup round of 16 soccer match between Australia and Denmark at Stadium Australia in Sydney, Australia, Monday, Aug. 7, 2023.

She initially was given a yellow card by referee Melissa Borjas after falling on top of Michelle Alozie and then stepping on the Nigeria defender. The crowd groaned as slow-motion replays on the stadium screens showed the incident, and, after a delay of several minutes, the yellow card was upgraded to red.

British media instantly reacted by comparing it with David Beckham's red card for kicking out at Argentina's Diego Simeone at the 1998 World Cup in France. The red card means James will miss at least the quarterfinal and a potential semifinal.

But after a run of injuries to senior players and the loss of James, England coach Sarina Wiegman praised her team for adapting to every challenge.

"I've never experienced so many problems," Wiegman said. "It's my job to think of things that can happen in a game or a tournament. You try to turn every stone and try to already think of a solution if things happen. Today, we got totally tested on those turned stones."

Wiegman said her 21-year-old star "in a split second lost her emotions."

"Of course she doesn't want to hurt anyone," the coach added. "She's the sweetest person I know."

The Lionesses immediately had to change formation in the 10-on-11 scenario, bringing on Chloe Kelly to play a solo role up front. She kicked the final penalty to clinch the shootout win.

Alozie was clear eight minutes into stoppage time but skewed her left-foot shot from seven yards wide of the post.

Veteran forward Asisat Oshoala forced a save from England goalkeeper Mary Earps deep in extra time.

After narrowly escaping with a win, England will meet Colombia or Jamaica in Sydney next Saturday in the quarterfinals.

"It's amazing. Anything that's thrown at us. We've shown what we're capable of," Kelly said. "We dig deep as a group and we believe in our ability. This team is special ... there's more to come."

Nigeria coach Randy Waldrum praised his team for going wire-to-wire with one of the best teams in the world.

"I'm so proud of them, to come in and play like we did tonight," Waldrum said. "The players right now obviously are in tears. They believed we could win and they expected to continue playing on.

"We gave everything. I certainly hope that people back in Nigeria appreciate the job that they've done while they're here and I would hope that they're happy, not upset that we lost."

Uchenna Kanu threatened with two headers in the second half, one just after the break that went just over the crossbar and another in the 72nd when she leaped to meet a corner kick but nudged it back past the near post.

Rachel Daly's powerful header as she ran into the box to meet a corner in the 75th was blocked by Chiamaka Nnadozie, who made two tremendous saves in the first half.

Nigeria had eight shots in the first half and created the better chances, including Ashleigh Plumptre's running left-foot strike into the crossbar in the 17th minute and her right-foot shot moments later that forced a diving save from England keeper Mary Earps.

A half-hour in, England was awarded a penalty when Daly appeared to be bumped to the ground in the area by blue-haired defender Rasheedat Ajibade, but it was overturned on VAR and brought a booming roar from the 49,461-strong crowd.

Oshoala went on as a substitute as the hour approached, with Nigeria aiming to reproduce the surge in attack her entry generated in the upset of Australia in the group stage. It generated more intensity but no goals.

Nigeria troubled the higher-ranked teams throughout the tournament after opening with a 0-0 draw against Olympic champion Canada and the win over Australia.

England advanced atop Group D, after struggling to a 1-0 opener against Haiti and edging Denmark by the same margin, the Lionesses unloaded with James scoring twice in a 6-1 win over China in a pool finale that drew a TV audience exceeding 53 million in China.

Losing James to suspenion will be another test of England's depth.

Beth Mead, who won the Golden Boot at the 2022 Euros, injured an ACL when playing for Arsenal in December. Leah Williamson, also playing for Arsenal, tore an ACL in April, and Fran Kirby is also missing from the Women's World Cup roster because of an injured knee.

Bob Marley's daughter is lauded as the 'fairy godmother' of the Jamaican women's team

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)—The daughter of reggae legend Bob Marley is something of a "fairy godmother" for the Jamaica team playing in its second Women's World Cup.

Cedella Marley has been a tireless advocate and fundraiser for the Reggae Girlz and helped rescue the team after it was disbanded in 2008.

Her work has paid off and Jamaica is in the round of 16. The Reggae Girlz play Colombia on Tuesday night in Melbourne, Australia.

"Her support has been really important to us and she's just the heart of this team," said Jamaica player Deneisha Blackwood. "She's just like our fairy godmother. We just appreciate her for everything she has done so far."

The Reggae Girlz were disbanded after failing to qualify for the 2007 World Cup and the 2008 Olympics. In 2014, Bob and Rita Marley's eldest daughter was alarmed to learn the Jamaican soccer federation had stopped funding the team.

Marley hoped to help the Reggae Girlz reach the 2015 World Cup, but the team failed to qualify. The Marley name — Bob Marley was a big soccer fan and player — spurred interest in the Reggae Girlz despite the World Cup miss — and the team made the tournament field in 2019.

"The backbone of this team, all along, has been Cedella," Jamaica coach Lorne Donaldson said. "Without her, and I can honestly this, because when the program was under, there was no football for the women. She was the one who pushed the start button and said, `We need to go.'"

While the Bob Marley Foundation is among the team's sponsors, funding is still a concern for the Reggae Girlz. Ahead of the World Cup, a GoFundMe crowdraising campaign was set up by a player's mother. Another was set up by the Reggae Girlz foundation. Both sites aimed to help Jamaica's women with the costs associated with the World Cup, including a training camp, travel, food, and staff support.

Those appeals came after players, including Cheyna Matthews and Khadija "Bunny" Shaw, posted a statement on social media about pay issues and other problems. The statement cited a lack of proper preparation that they hoped would be addressed by the Jamaican Football Federation.

"We acknowledge that things have not been done perfectly, and we are working assiduously to resolve them," the JFF responded in a statement.

It is hoped that with the team's success at this World Cup, the Reggae Girlz will finally get support.

"I think Cedella has been the most important part of our journey," Blackwood said. "I think the best thing about her is she actually sees us not just as football players but as human beings. And I think that is just something that we've always wanted."

Biggio hits two-run homer in 8th as Blue Jays beat Guardians

CLEVELAND (AP)—Cavan Biggio hit a two-run homer to break a scoreless tie in the eighth inning and lift Toronto to a 3-1 win over the Cleveland Guardians on Monday night after the Blue Jays lost starting pitcher Hyun Jin Ryu to a knee injury.

Biggio's drive to center field came off reliever Enyel De Los Santos (4-2) and scored Daulton Varsho. Toronto had been held to one hit over the first seven innings by Guardians rookie Gavin Williams, who struck out a season-high 12.

Ryu was struck on the right kneecap by Oscar Gonzalez's line drive that turned into the final out of the fourth, forcing him to exit with a bruised knee in his second start since undergoing Tommy John surgery in June 2022. The 36-year-old left-hander tossed four hitless innings.

Erik Swanson (3-2) pitched the seventh and Jordan Hicks worked the ninth, permitting the Guardians to load the bases before picking up his 10th save.

Earlier in the day, Guardians third baseman José Ramírez was suspended three games and White Sox shortstop Tim Anderson received a six-game ban for initiating a bench-clearing melee with their fight at second base Saturday. Both players are appealing their penalties and remain able to play, but Cleveland closer Emmanuel Clase and manager Terry Francona both served their one-game suspensions.

AP

Toronto Blue Jays' Cavan Biggio celebrates with Daulton Varsho (25) after hitting a two-run home run off Cleveland Guardians relief pitcher Enyel De Los Santos during the eighth inning of a baseball game, Monday, Aug. 7, 2023, in Cleveland.

PIRATES 7, BRAVES 6

PITTSBURGH (AP)—Rookie infielder Liover Peguero had two hits in a six-run third inning and Pittsburgh chased Spencer Strider early before holding off Atlanta for a rain-delayed victory.

Connor Joe homered in the fourth to help the fourth-place Pirates hand the major league-leading Braves their third consecutive defeat.

Strider (12-4), runner-up in NL Rookie of the Year voting last season, matched a career low by pitching just 2 2/3 innings. He also lasted only 2 2/3 innings a year to the day prior against the New York Mets.

Strider had gone 8-1 in his previous 12 starts. He allowed five hits and walked three.

Carmen Mlodzinski (2-2) retired all four batters he faced for the win. David Bednar earned his 23rd save in 25 opportunities.

Ozzie Albies homered and Matt Olson drove in two runs for the Braves, raising his season total to 99 RBIs.

DODGERS 13, PADRES 7

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Mookie Betts hit a grand slam to cap an eight-run fourth inning and NL West-leading Los Angeles won for the sixth time in seven games.

Betts drove a 3-0 pitch from Seth Lugo into the left-center seats, his 31st homer of the season, with one out in the fourth to give the Dodgers an 8-5 lead. It was the sixth career slam for Betts, and the 11th for the Dodgers to tie their single-season high.

James Outman had four hits for the Dodgers, who took three of four in the series to improve to 8-2 this season against San Diego.

Luis Campusano had two homers among his four hits for the Padres.

San Diego scored five runs off Tony Gonsolin (7-4) in the third, but that lead was gone nine batters into the fourth. David Peralta had an RBI double and Jason Heyward doubled in two more runs. Miguel Rojas hit a bloop single to center to pull the Dodgers to 5-4. Betts then connected to put the Dodgers ahead.

RANGERS 5, ATHLETICS 3

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—Travis Jankowski had a go-ahead RBI groundout in the eighth, Leody Taveras followed with a sacrifice fly, and Texas won its season-best seventh straight game.

Texas tied it in the seventh when Nathaniel Lowe reached on an error by pitcher Kirby Snead while covering first and trying to catch a throw from first baseman Tyler Soderstrom, allowing Jankowski to score. He came through again the next inning facing Dany Jiménez (0-1).

Zack Gelof hit a two-run double in the third and Nick Allen also doubled home a run that inning for the A's, coming off two impressive wins over the San Francisco Giants during the weekend Bay Bridge Series.

Mitch Garver hit a two-run double in the top of the fourth for Texas, which topped its six-game winning streak from July 14-19.

The Rangers won this one without clearing the fences. They had hit multiple home runs in six straight games to begin August — 17 total — to match the longest such streak in franchise history.

Josh Sborz (5-4) relieved Rangers starter Dane Dunning and pitched the seventh inning for the win then Aroldis Chapman struck out the side in the eighth before Will Smith finished for his 21st save.

REDS 5, MARLINS 2

CINCINNATI (AP)—Christian Encarnacion-Strand and Joey Votto homered on consecutive pitches by Eury Pérez in the fourth inning, and Cincinnati stopped a six-game slide.

TJ Friedl had two hits and two RBIs as the Reds improved to 10-14 since the All-Star break. The six-game slide matched the season high for Cincinnati, which remains in the thick of the playoff race.

Reds rookie Brandon Williamson (4-2) struck out a career-high nine in 6 2/3 innings. The left-hander allowed one run and three hits.

Jorge Soler and Jazz Chisholm Jr. homered for Miami in its fifth straight loss. The Marlins finished with five hits and two errors.

Alexis Díaz walked the first two batters in the ninth, but got Jesús Sánchez on a foul tip and pinch-hitter Luis Arraez bounced into a game-ending double play. It was Díaz's 33rd save in 34 opportunities.

WHITE SOX 5, YANKEES 1

CHICAGO (AP)—Andrew Vaughn hit a two-run homer and made a terrific run-saving play at first base, helping Chicago get its third straight win.

Luis Robert Jr. added a two-run double in a three-run eighth, helping the White Sox break it open. Andrew Benintendi drove in Trayce Thompson with a sacrifice fly.

Chicago shortstop Tim Anderson went 0 for 2 with two strikeouts in his first action since he was suspended for six games for his role in a fight with Cleveland slugger José Ramírez on Saturday. Anderson, who was replaced by a pinch hitter in the eighth, is appealing the punishment.

White Sox manager Pedro Grifol served his one-game suspension on Monday night.

The Yankees went 1 for 12 with runners in scoring position and left 13 runners on base. They lost for the third time in four games.

Yankees ace Gerrit Cole (10-3) allowed four runs and five hits in seven-plus innings. He struck out three, walked two and hit a batter.

RED SOX 6, ROYALS 2

BOSTON (AP)—Pablo Reyes hit a walkoff grand slam to break a ninth-inning tie—his third hit of the night—and Boston recovered after blowing a two-run lead.

It was just Boston's second win in nine games, including a sweep over the weekend by the Toronto Blue Jays.

Kenley Jansen (3-5) pitched a perfect ninth for the win. Brayan Bello took a shutout into the seventh inning before the Royals scored twice to tie it.

It remained 2-2 until Rafael Devers one-hopped the short wall in right field beyond the Pesky Pole. Adam Duvall struck out — for the fourth time in the game — and Triston Casas was intentionally walked before Luis Urías, who had also struck out in his first three at-bats, walked on a checked-swing 3-2 pitch.

With the bases loaded, Reyes hit a line drive off the Fisk foul pole, sending the crowd into a frenzy.

Carlos Hernández (1-7) was charged with four runs and two hits and two walks, striking out one. MJ Melendez singled three times off Bello.

GIANTS 8, ANGELS 3

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP)—Patrick Bailey put the Giants ahead with a two-run double when Randal Grichuk misplayed his drive to left, keying San Francisco's six-run rally in the ninth inning that sent Los Angeles to its season-worst seventh consecutive loss.

Mark Mathias added a two-run single in his Giants debut off All-Star closer Carlos Estévez (5-3), who spectacularly blew his second consecutive save after converting his first 23 opportunities this season.

Bailey got two RBIs when Grichuk tried and failed to snag his tailing drive, allowing the ball to roll away while Wilmer Flores and J.D. Davis scored. Thairo Estrada and Blake Sabol eventually added RBI singles off Aaron Loup in the ninth.

Davis hit a tying homer in the seventh for the Giants, who have won eight of 12.

Shohei Ohtani doubled, singled, scored a run and stole his 15th base of the season for the Angels, who still haven't won since the MLB trade deadline.

Taylor Rogers (6-4) pitched the eighth.

TWINS 9, TIGERS 3

DETROIT (AP)—Carlos Correa homered and drove in four runs as Minnesota won its season-best fifth straight.

The Twins (60-54) also got a homer and three RBIs from Ryan Jeffers, improving to 15-8 since the All-Star break.

Pablo López (7-6) won his second straight start, holding Detroit scoreless for seven innings. He gave up five hits and didn't walk a batter while striking out eight. The Tigers only had one runner reach scoring position against him.

Joey Wentz (2-10) took the loss, allowing eight runs on 10 hits and a walk in three innings. Wentz is now 0-6 with a 6.61 in 15 career appearances at Comerica Park.

METS 11, CUBS 2

NEW YORK (AP)—Pete Alonso homered in consecutive at-bats and tied a career high with six RBIs as New York withstood a long rain delay and snapped a six-game losing streak.

In their first home game since trading Justin Verlander, Mark Canha and Tommy Pham at last week's deadline, the Mets (51-61) avoided matching their longest skid this season. New York dropped seven straight June 2-9 when it fell under .500.

Alonso connected in the first and third innings against Drew Smyly (8-8). It was his fourth multi-homer game this year and third since the All-Star break.

Kodai Senga (8-6) allowed two runs and seven hits in six innings for his first win since July 5 and first home win since May 30 against Philadelphia.

BREWERS 12, ROCKIES 1

MILWAUKEE (AP)—Freddy Peralta struck out 13 to match his career high and allowed just one hit over seven innings to lead Milwaukee.

Sal Frelick went 2 for 3 with a three-run homer, scored three times and had four RBIs for the Brewers. Brice Turang and Tyrone Tayloralso went deep, and William Contreras went 3 for 5, scored twice and had three RBIs.

Peralta (8-8) gave up a homer to Ezequiel Tovar with one out in the first inning, but didn't let anyone else get on base. Peralta retired each the last 20 batters he faced.

Colorado's Peter Lambert (2-3) was a strike away from exiting the fourth inning with a 1-0 lead and a no-hit bid intact until everything fell apart for him. The Brewers collected five straight two-out hits to pull ahead 5-1, knocking Lambert out of the game in the process.

CNMI Disability Sports Festival successfully celebrated

Throughout the month of July, the CNMI Disability Sports Festival had a successful launching of activities back on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

After a four-year break, the CNMI-DSF Organizing Committee, led by Public School System Athletics director Nick Gross and the Center for Living Independently, were able to bring activities to each island, as it could not bear to let another year go by without having the sports festival in place for the residents to enjoy.

"The return of the Disability Sports Festival was a highlight of 2023 and our collective return to normalcy in the CNMI. First and foremost, I would like to extend the Organizing Committee's gratitude to all that participated, the Disability Network Partners, and most especially all of our sponsors that supported the return of the festival. Although we've just completed all three events, the OC is already looking to 2024 and making plans to ensure the sustainability of this meaningful, annual event and discussing how best to move forward, ensuring opportunities for all," Gross said.

The organizing committee received positive feedback from participants. One CLI consumer commented that the activities were not too hard and he enjoyed playing sitting volleyball since they used a balloon instead of an actual volleyball because it felt safer to play the game. He added he liked how sports were available both indoors and outdoors. Disc golf was his favorite because even though he wasn't really good at it, he had a lot of help and guidance and was able to learn how to play the sport.

"I really appreciated the disc giveaway and the medal we received after playing the sports. I have dogs at home, and we can use the discs to play fetch on our walks at American Memorial Park. I'm excited for the next DSF," the CLI consumer added.

ROTA MAYOR'S OFFICE

Rota's CNMI Disability Sports Festival was held at the Sinapalo Man'amko Center and attracted 20 participants.

Another CLI consumer shared that this year's festival was very good for her and she is happy they all got together and enjoyed the activities. She really liked that we got to play with other individuals with disabilities whom they don't usually see at the center, like the younger kids.

Overall, the 2023 CNMI-DSF welcomed over 150 participants. On Saipan, the festival was celebrated at the Marianas High School gym and had 110 participants. Tinian's celebration had more than 25 participants at the Tinian Gymnasium, while Rota's festival was held at the Sinapalo Man'amko Center with 20 participants. With each event having its unique level of participation and competitiveness, the organizing committee is excited to continue their work in planning future festivals.

"The festival was really fun. As a person who is blind, I was happy that I still got the chance to play the games even when I cannot see. There were people guiding me and I really appreciated that," a CLI consumer commented.

"I enjoyed the sports festival. It was my first time and I liked playing all the activities. The sitting volleyball was good. It was nice to sit and play. Someone in my group was in a wheelchair and I enjoyed helping them play the game with us. I'm a team leader here at CLI and I'm happy I was able to help someone else have fun too," said another CLI consumer.

Meanwhile, the CNMI-DSF Organizing Committee would like to express its gratitude to the following sponsors: Office of the Governor- Grants Management Office, Tan Siu Lin Foundation, Department of Fire and Emergency Management Services (Saipan, Tinian and Rota), Senate President Edith DeLeon Guerrero, Sen. Dennis Mendiola, Office of Speaker Edmund Villagomez, Vice Speaker Joel C. Camacho, Floor Leader Edwin K. Propst, Rep. Vincent S. Aldan, Rep. Roman C. Benavente, Rep. Angelo A. Camacho, Rep. Manny T. Castro, Rep. Joseph A. Flores, Rep. Marissa Flores, Rep. Thomas John Manglona, Rep. Julie Ogo, Rep. Malcolm C. Omar, Rep. Patrick H. San Nicolas, Rep. Denita K. Yangetmai, Rep. Diego Vincent Camacho, Office of Tinian Mayor Edwin Aldan and team, Office of Rota Mayor Aubrey Hocog and team, Board of Parole, Department of Corrections Outreach Program, Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, Island Bath & Ceramics, JG Sablan Ice & Water, Calvo's Enterprises, Kin & Rit Enterprises, Marianas High School, Tinian Gymnasium, Tinian Municipal Council, Rota Municipal Council, Rota Aging Center, Babauta Family, Virgie's Dress Shop, and Kailana Diaz King.

For inquiries or to support upcoming related events, contact CLI at 670-322-4303/04. ***(PR)***

Socho 1 defeats Home Smart in Eagles caging, 61-56

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

Socho 1 defeated Home Smart, 61-56, in the last minutes of their game in the Inaugural SMEC-SMLEC Invitational Basketball Tournament 2023 Monday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

The open division A teams took to the court for the first game of the night and finished up with nail-biting action. Both teams were close as they took turns scoring in the last five minutes of the fourth quarter, and it was too close to tell who would take the victory.

But with less than five minutes left, Socho 1 pulled away when Dom Faisao sank in two clutch field goals to break the 56-56 tie after their team fouled Home Smart three times in a row.

Home Smart could not answer back and with a final free throw by Socho 1's Russ Hocog, time ran out and they lost by just five points.

Home Smart's Ronald Rueda tried to give his team a boost early on with his three 3-pointers and aggressive plays within the paint that put him in positions to be fouled, but to no avail as his teammates were not so accurate themselves.

No one else in Home Smart made it to double digits, while Socho 1 had a more balanced output. Freddie Guerrero had 16 markers, while Timmy Pangelinan and Derek Olopai scored 11 each.

In Game 2 of open division B, Bridge Capital was the first victim of Vik Team as they lost in a blowout, 53-95.

From the get-go, Vik Team showed more oomph as they flew through the first quarter, 25-19, with the help of two 3-pointers from Web Gontar. Vik Team still had the upper hand in the second quarter as Vik Team continued to make their shots from perfect passes to each other.

Vik Team was up by 9 points heading into the third quarter and that was when their offense exploded. The speedy Joseph Torres put up 8 points in the third quarter alone, racked up a total of 14 points, and helped Vik Team to a 27-point lead at the end of the quarter.

After only a lackluster 7 points made by Bridge Capital, it was lights out for them even before the end of the game as Vik Team saddled onto their high horse and giddy-upped their way to the win, 95-53.

First Game 1

Socho 1 61 – Guerrero 16, Pangelinan 11, Olopai 11, Hocog 6, D. Faisao 6, Q. Faisao 4, Philip 4, Babauta 3.

Home Smart 56 – Rueda 20, Tagle 7, Dionicio 7, Ramos 7, Rizardo 6, Mortos 2, Bungabong 2, Palima 2, Castro 1.

Scoring by quarters: 19-13, 36-30, 47-42, 61-56.

Second Game

Vik Team 95 – S. Devero 19, Torres 14, Nicodemus 13, Montes 10, De Dios 7, Gontar 6, Vicedo 6, Bathan 6, Reyes 2, Castro 1, Cruz 1.

Bridge Capital 53 – Ronald Bernardo 13, David 11, Capalad 7, Aparte 5, Doca 5, Lilies 4, Hipolito 4, Ramos 2, Melendrez 2.

Scoring by quarters: 25-19, 40-31, 65-38, 95-53.

TWINS

From page 20

game, 20-20, then David Langu scored the winning run on a go-ahead RBI double by A.J. Magofna.

The Little Cubs put up as many runs as they could in their last at-bat at the top of the last inning, bringing in nine runs from back-to-back RBI singles and walks, but it wasn't enough to dissuade the Twins.

The Twins actually had just a one-run lead by the fourth inning when the Little Cubs scored three runs through Dan Repeki, Austin Paulus, and Eric Palacios.

It was back and forth from there when the Twins scored eight, then the Little Cubs answered with four more for a close 12-11 Twins lead.

The fifth inning was when the Twins scored six more runs to pull ahead, but the Little Cubs gained a two-run 20-18 lead at the top of the last inning, until the Twins' three-run rally.

In the Braves-Toros game, the Braves pummeled the Toros, 18-1.

The Braves' offense showed no mercy to the Toros' pitching staff as they scored seven runs in the first inning that went unanswered. Two more runs scored in the second inning for a 9-0 game and the Braves continued their run scoring in the fourth inning.

Nine more runs came in for the Braves and the game ended early as the Toros only brought in one run.

On Saturday, Aug. 12, at 9:30am the Toros will take on the Little Cubs and at 12pm it's the Twins vs. the Blue Jays.

Then on Aug. 19 at 9:30am it's the Braves versus the winner of the Twins and the Blue Jays; and at 12pm, it's the Comets versus the winner of the Toros and Little Cubs.

CARDINALS

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The Cardinals' offense then proceeded to pick up their pitching staff as they scored six runs in the third inning for a six-run lead that went unanswered until the sixth inning.

The Junior Nationals' Suel broke the silence after he got into scoring position and was brought home by Angelo Igitol, but they couldn't tack on any more runs before three outs were made and were down, 4-10.

In the eighth inning, the Cardinals dashed the hopes of the Junior Nationals for a close game as they scored six runs on account of the Junior Nationals' faltering defense.

Four Cardinals batters—Saralu, Masaharu, Camacho, and Nate Smith—got on base through errors, which the rest of the lineup capitalized on and scored them in plus two more runs for good measure.

The Junior Nationals tried to make a comeback in the last inning and fell short as only three runs came in, but not due to a lack of effort.

Borja, Suel, and Evangelista scored from their teammates' fight in the batters' box, but the Cardinals' 12-run lead was just too steep to chip away at before three outs registered and the lights turned off on an exciting Game 1.

Although a looming rainy weather forecast is expected for tonight, Game 2 is scheduled as the Cardinals try to sweep the Junior Nationals—and the Junior Nationals try to take it into a winner-take-all, tie-breaking third game this Friday.

ABALOS

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already had their ace. I was so thankful that I am now qualified for the Ace of the Year Tournament," he said.

Abalos actually joined Fil-Taga way back in 2005 and played with the group for four years before going on a sabbatical as he became active in bowling and in the Saipan Electronic Darts Association.

He returned to playing golf two years ago but took a year off in 2022 before again doing a McArthur this year.

"Actually, I don't play much golf because of my busy work schedule so I have to find a way to join our Fil-Taga monthly tournaments. Those who want to play this game, you need dedication and patience and lots of practice and play with players like Freddie for some good advice," he said.

Aside from the Top 3, other members that played during the July qualifier were as follows with their net scores in parenthesis: Albert Pajarillaga (73), Mike Cruz (74), Padernal (74), Ed Varias (75), Tony Cabrera (75), Das Krishnan (75), Jhun Cayetano (77), Ronnie Santos (77), Jess Yumul (79), Ruben Avendano (79), Burt Suda (80), and Antonio Tabornil (86).

In the par 3 competition, Tabornil won in hole No. 3, followed by Cataluna, Santos, and Pajarillaga in holes No. 7, 12, and 14, respectively.

With the win last July, Abalos now joins Ganacias (January), Hak Chon Bae (February), Tony Cabrera (March), Padernal (April), Cataluna (May), and Wil Maui (June) as early qualifiers for the season-ending Fil-Taga Ace of Aces Tournament.

Australia advances to quarters by beating Denmark with Sam Kerr back.

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Sports

CNMI Disability Sports Festival successfully celebrated.

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Cardinals take Game 1 of finals

LEIGH GASES
A beautiful sunset sky was the backdrop of Cardinals' Shane Yamada's at-bat as they took on the Junior Nationals in the first game of the best-of-3 championship series in the 2023 Tan Holdings-Saipan Baseball League Monday night at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Baseball Field.

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

The Top 2 baseball teams—the experienced and undefeated Cardinals and the up-and-coming young sluggers of the Junior Nationals—clashed in Game 1 of the 2023 Tan Holdings-Saipan Baseball League's best-of-3 championship series on a rare clear night Monday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Baseball Field.

It was definitely a fight to the finish as both teams took advantage of the absence of rain and played until the late hours—where the Cardinals' six-run eighth inning secured their Game 1 win, 16-7.

The Cardinals' top of the order struck first as they brought in three runs in the first inning against Junior Nationals pitcher Jon Diaz. After Diaz allowed Shane Yamada on base via a walk, the league's batting champ Nokki Saralu found a gap for a base hit that brought in Yamada.

Poland Masaharu got on base on balls, while Saralu scored from an RBI single by Brian Camacho. Diaz got out of the jam after walking Eli Aughenbaugh and Keoni Kaipat, then finally proceeding to get three outs.

The Junior Nationals were then back in the game after they tied it up, 3-3 in the second inning. Andre Iguel started things off with the first run, then a second run by Jylon Sablan from an RBI double from Joell Borja.

J.R. Suel then loaded the bases on a walk and after, Achilles Evangelista scored the third run from an RBI walk.

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Twins rally to win, 21-20

LEIGH GASES
Little Cubs pitcher Eric Palacios delivers a pitch to a Twins batter during their game in the Saipan Baseball League U12 Baseball Tournament last Saturday at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Pangelinan Softball Field in Susupe.

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

The Twins rallied against the Little Cubs in the continuation of their rained-out game in the Saipan Baseball League U12 Baseball Tournament last Saturday at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Pangelinan Softball Field in Susupe.

In a run-frenzy game, the Twins took the victory after a three-run rally in the last inning to break the tie and take the win by one run, 21-20.

The Twins' Finian Malwelbug and Myrhus Tomokane scored two runs to even up the

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Abalos above everyone in July tourney

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Edgar Abalos won his second career Fil-Taga Golfer Association monthly tilt after topping the July Ace of the Month Tournament last July 22 at Coral Ocean Resort in Agingan.

The 60-year-old Pacific Islands Club Saipan guest service supervisor actually finished third behind Freddie Cataluna's net 66 and Dan Ganacias' net 70, but since those two already won a monthly tournament this season, third place Abalos took the plum.

For the record, Ganacias fired a gross 79, but minus his 13 handicap came away with the best score of July. Four-handicapper Cataluna, meanwhile, shot a 73 gross.

Abalos officially won the July Ace of the Month with his net 72 following a gross of 83 (44-39) for the 11-handicapper.

"It was a perfect day to play golf in that kind of weather. I like the course. The holes are long and fairways are wide and it gave us a little advantage from the rest because of our driving distance," Abalos told *Saipan Tribune.*

He attributed his win to Cataluna and Emil Padernal who he was fortunate to play with during the tourney.

"They both hit the ball long and accurately so I have to do my best. It's fun that we always look at who gets the longest drive. The tips and advice of Freddie regarding my swing helped a lot because I always had a problem hitting my driver that day," said the Baguio City, Philippines native.

Abalos went on to dedicate his victory in the July competition to his family, who still believe in his game; and himself because despite being a bit rusty, he still managed to pull off the win. "Fortunately, I got the Fil-Taga Ace of the Month because the Top 2 players Dan and Freddie

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